

S. Korean schools to use digital textbooks by 2015

Teacher Yeon Eun-jung gives a lesson to her students, using tablet PCs at Sosu Elementary School in Gwesan, South Korea. The country is taking a \$2 billion gamble that its students are ready to ditch paper textbooks in favor of tablet PCs as part of a vast digital scholastic network

Associated Press
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Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, July 21, 2011

Heat Wave

CHICAGO (AP) — For millions of people enduring this week's extreme heat and humidity, it feels like they're living in a pressure cooker. And in a sense, they are. Much of the United States is trapped under a heat "dome" caused by a huge area of high pressure that's compressing hot, moist air beneath it, leading to miserable temperatures in the mid-90s to low 100s and heat-index levels well above 100 degrees.

"It's hot no matter what you're doing or where you are," said Tim Prader, a 50-year-old construction worker who was taking a break Tuesday at a job site in St. Louis. Although his huge Caterpillar excavator has air conditioning, he couldn't entirely escape. "When you're done for the day, you're ready to eat, drink and hit the couch." □



Tayler Towell cools off during a baseball game between the Philadelphia Phillies and the Chicago Cubs, Wednesday, July 20, 2011, in Chicago. The afternoon heat index in Chicago exceeded 100 degrees. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)



PRIME SUSPECT

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron leaves Downing Street in London, Wednesday, July 20, 2011. (AP Photo/K. Wigglesworth)

British PM drags foes into scandal

PAISLEY DODDS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister David Cameron dragged his political foes into Britain's phone-hacking scandal at a raucous session of Parliament, distancing himself from a former aide at the heart of the allegations and denying his staff tried to thwart police investigations.

Cameron, who flew back from Africa early for Wednesday's emergency session, defended his decision to hire former News of the World editor Andy Coulson as his communications chief, saying Coulson's work in government had been untarnished.

Coulson was arrested this month in connection with allegations that reporters at the tabloid intercepted voice mails of celebrities and crime victims to get scoops. Cameron reminded lawmakers that Coulson has yet to be found guilty of anything.

But the prime minister also made his strongest effort yet to distance himself from his former aide.

"With 20/20 hindsight, and all that has followed, I would not have offered him the job, and I expect that he wouldn't have taken it," Cameron told lawmakers who packed the House of Commons. "You live and you learn, and believe you me, I have learnt."

Cameron then turned the spotlight on the Labour Party, saying that most British politicians had tried to court media baron Rupert Murdoch — whose News Corp. owned the defunct News of the World and still owns three other British newspapers.

The prime minister warned that Labour should be careful before casting stones about hiring choices. Former Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair's communications director, Alastair Campbell, was accused of exag-

gerating government documents in the lead-up to the Iraq war, and the party's former special adviser Damian McBride quit amid allegations he circulated scurrilous rumors about political opponents.

"You've still got Tom Baldwin working in your office!" Cameron exclaimed, referring to Labour's political strategist who has been accused of illegally obtaining private banking information in 1999 while working as a journalist for The Times, another Murdoch paper. Baldwin could not be reached for comment.

Labour was in power when the phone hacking scandal broke in 2005 over a News of the World story about Prince William's knee injury — information that royal household staff believed could have only come from illegal voicemail intercepts. The scandal has since embroiled top politicians, police and journalists. □

Challenges to Romney's play-it-safe style lurk

JEFF ZELENY

J. MEDINA

© 2011 New York Times

Jeff Zeleny reported from Washington, and Jennifer Medina from Los Angeles.

WASHINGTON — Tim Pawlenty forged ahead on an 18-city tour across Iowa, a dawn-to-dusk schedule of courting voters. Michele Bachmann released a television ad warning against raising the nation's debt limit. And Gov. Rick Perry of Texas inched even closer to entering the presidential race, inviting top-shelf donors to Austin.

But where was Mitt Romney? He arrived in Los Angeles on Wednesday, getting about as far away from the budget debate in Washington — and the rest of his Republican rivals — as he could. A brief afternoon stop at a forlorn strip mall in the San Fernando Valley, where he lobbed a long-distance critique of President Barack Obama's economic policy, served as his sole public appearance of the week. "I look forward to a campaign where the president stands up and talks about what a great job he's done on the economy," Romney

told a handful of supporters gathered in a parking lot. "We're now three years into his four-year term, and unemployment is still above

He has stuck to his message on the economy and job creation, even while navigating criticism about his health care record as gov-

with peril.

There is little question that Romney sits at the top of the 2012 Republican class — he has raised more money than any other candidate, his rivals are jockeying to become his alternative and the White House is fixated on him more than any contender. But it remains a question how long he can go days at a time without engaging with his challengers. Former Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi, who is backing Romney and hosting a fundraising luncheon for him next week, said he was growing concerned that Romney was erring on the side of being too cautious for the Republican primary electorate and failing to take advantage of the unsettled field.

"I don't know that what he's doing is necessarily the right strategy, but it so far has been working for him,"

Lott said in an interview. "But I think he is going to have to pick it up. I'm going to ask him, 'What's your strategy here and are you going to pick it up a notch?'"

While Romney has invested considerable time and money campaigning in New Hampshire in recent

weeks, even as he has quietly kept alive his organization in Iowa, he is taking a vastly different approach than during his first presidential race.

At this point four years ago, he had been advertising on TV for six months. This time, he has yet to broadcast a single spot and instructed his advisers to avoid becoming consumed by the daily back-and-forth of a campaign. He has started to sprinkle more public events into his schedule — including the stop along Laurel Canyon Boulevard in suburban Los Angeles, where paint peeled from the rooftops of shuttered storefronts. Romney nostalgically recalled that it was the same location where John F. Kennedy campaigned in 1960 when it was among the premiere shopping malls in America. "It's certainly lost that," Romney said.

He squeezed the stop, which lasted about 15 minutes, between a series of fundraisers and private meetings in California. But the days of relative solitude may be soon running out. Romney was not the only potential Republican candidate in California. □



Mitt Romney, former governor of Massachusetts and Republican presidential hopeful, holds a news conference in a mall parking lot to discuss the economy, in Los Angeles, July 20, 2011. As Romney's campaign intensifies, his relentlessly low-key approach could be fraught with peril as other candidates rush to seize the political moment.

(Monica Almeida/The New York Times)

8 percent. If that's not the definition of failure, I don't know what is."

A play-it-safe strategy, with a direct focus on Obama, has served Romney fairly well during the first seven months of the year. He has not had to accept ownership of positions being taken by Republicans in Congress.

error of Massachusetts.

But as the Republican presidential campaign intensifies, with Bachmann capturing the imagination of conservative activists and Perry being recruited by Republican leaders to declare his candidacy, Romney's determinedly low-key approach could be fraught

NYC man indicted on murder charge in child killing

COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A man was indicted by a grand jury Wednesday on murder and kidnapping charges in the killing and dismemberment of an 8-year-old boy who was abducted off a Brooklyn street last week. Levi Aron was indicted on a total of eight counts. Prosecutors allege he lured Leiby Kletzky to his home after the little boy got lost while walking home from a day camp and asked him for help.

Detectives later found the boy's severed feet, wrapped in plastic, in Aron's freezer, as well as a cutting board and three bloody carving knives. The rest of the boy's body was discovered in bags inside a red suitcase in a trash bin. The medical examiner said earlier Wednesday that

Leiby was given a cocktail of painkillers and muscle relaxants before he was smothered.

Aron previously pleaded not guilty after he was arrested on murder and kidnapping charges. His attorney, Pierre Bazile, declined to comment on the medical examiner's findings and has asked the public to let the judicial process take its course.

Bazile said Aron suffers from hallucinations and has been under a suicide watch. He is currently at Bellevue Hospital, where he is undergoing psychiatric evaluation.

Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes said they were still investigating whether there were any other incidents in Aron's past.

Chief police spokesman

Paul Browne said Wednesday that detectives believe the boy was killed some-

time late in the afternoon or early in the evening on July 12 after Aron returned

home from work — which means the boy was alive for about a day after he disappeared.

Investigators say it's possible that, while Aron was at work that day, the boy was in his apartment all day of his own free will.

Leiby's death was ruled a homicide. It was caused by intoxication from the combined effects of cyclobenzaprine, a muscle relaxant; quetiapine, an antipsychotic; and the pain medications hydrocodone and acetaminophen, followed by smothering. Prescription drugs in Aron's name were found at the apartment.

The medical examiner's office dated the report July 13, which is when they found the body, not necessarily when they believed the killing to have occurred. □



Defense attorney Pierre Bazile speaks on behalf of Levi Aron, left, at his arraignment before Judge William Miller in Brooklyn criminal court in New York was indicted by a grand jury Wednesday on murder and kidnapping charges in the killing and dismemberment of an 8-year-old boy who was abducted off a Brooklyn street last week. Levi Aron was indicted on a total of eight counts.

(AP Photo/Louis Lanzano, Pool)

Debt deal: Obama willing to soften stance

WASHINGTON (AP) — Running out of time, President Barack Obama softened his stand and signaled Wednesday he would back a short-term deal to prevent a disastrous financial default on Aug. 2, but only if a larger and still elusive deficit-cutting agreement was essentially in place.

He called lawmakers to the White House in a scramble to find enough votes from both Republicans and his own party.

Obama met with the Democratic leaders of the House and Senate, and then separately with House Speaker John Boehner and his deputy, Majority Leader Eric Cantor, in hopes of cobbling together a big compromise. All signs pointed to a legislative fight that would play out to the end.

The president, pushing for a deal that would cut the nation's budget deficit across the next decade and extend the government's tapped-out borrowing power through the approaching election year, had threatened to veto any stopgap expansion of the nation's debt limit. He even challenged Cantor, R-Va., not to call his bluff about it in one confrontational moment last week.

Obama's now-calibrated position, offered by spokesman Jay Carney, reflected the reality: leaders are nearly out of time to head off unprecedented trouble. Carney said if a divided Congress and the White House can agree on a significant deal, Obama would accept a "very short-term extension" of the debt limit to let bigger legislation work its way through Congress.

Even a few days matters, given the stakes.

The government will exhaust its ability to borrow money and pay its bills come Aug. 2, an outcome that could sink the country back into recession, halt Social Security checks, send interest rates higher and erode the creditworthiness of the richest nation on earth. □

In Minnesota

U.S. governor signs budget, ends state shutdown

MARTIGA LOHN
Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (AP) — Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton ended America's longest state government shutdown in the past decade Wednesday by signing a new budget.

Dayton's signature came just hours after lawmakers gave their own approval to the deal after meeting in special session that started Tuesday afternoon and lasted until early Wednesday morning. All sides formalized an agreement that Dayton struck with leading Republicans late last week. The two sides argued bitterly over taxes and spending for months.

When government shut down July 1, it closed state parks and rest stops, laid off 22,000 state employees, stopped road projects and much more.

The end to the shutdown began when Dayton moved last week to accept a borrowing plan offered by the Republican shortly before the stoppage began.

After signing the budget, Dayton said he was "not entirely happy" with it.

"It's not what I wanted, but it's the best option that was available and would be for any time," he said. Dayton



Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton is handed one of the bills as he signs the state budget bill which ends the government shutdown, Wednesday, July 20, 2011 in St. Paul, Minn. Dayton's signature came just hours after lawmakers gave their own approval to the deal after meeting in special session that started Tuesday afternoon and lasted until early Wednesday morning. After signing the budget, Dayton said he was "not entirely happy" with it.

(AP Photo/Jim Mone)

said the budget "gets Minnesota back to work."

Details were still emerging Wednesday about how quickly state operations would restart.

The budget was widely panned for setting up a new problem down the road. It borrows money from schools and from fu-

ture payments on a legal settlement with tobacco companies to erase a \$5 billion deficit through mid-2013. Republicans and Democrats have been at odds for years over how to address persistent deficits, with Republican leaders pushing for deeper spending cuts and Democrats ar-

guing for new taxes. Minnesota became a national example of political dysfunction, mirroring in miniature the partisan standoff in Washington over raising the debt ceiling. State leaders are more accustomed to being recognized for efficiency and innovation. □

A potential L.A. mayor holds the post, on TV

IAN LOVETT

© 2011 New York Times

LOS ANGELES — Like most aspiring actors here, Eric Garcetti has a day job: He is president of the City Council, and he is openly pondering a run for mayor of Los Angeles. But this week, Garcetti got a taste of the job on TNT's drama "The Closer," where he played, well, the mayor of Los Angeles. For the second time.

A speaking role on a hit show like "The Closer" might be a dream come true for some of Garcetti's constituents, many of whom live every day looking for that big Hollywood break.

For Garcetti, the appearance may instead be a step on the way to finding a better day job.

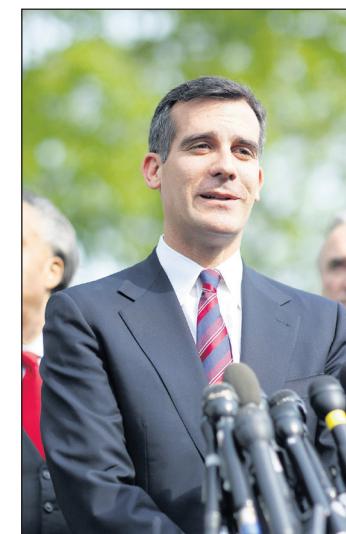
While other potential opponents — like Austin Beutner,

who stepped down as

deputy mayor to focus on his campaign, or Wendy Greuel, the city controller — have to settle for, say, a fundraiser in Venice or a meet-and-greet in the San Fernando Valley, Garcetti has, for a moment, a prime-time, national stage on which to look mayoral.

"The name recognition of a program such as 'The Closer' might bring increased visibility for him," said Tom Hollihan, a professor of communication at the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism at the University of Southern California.

"The impact of the program is not just felt by the viewers who might tune in and watch. These days, segments of the show



Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti's appearance this week on TNT's drama "The Closer," where he plays the mayor of Los Angeles, may be a step on the way to being an actual mayor.

(Philip Scott Andrews/The New York Times)

is still an old media way to do things. Even if it gets

pushed out in new media context, I don't think it's going to spark the kind of excitement that it would have in earlier decades. Audiences are not as large as they used to be." Garcetti appeared again as Mayor Ramon Quintero, a name that conveniently highlights his heritage (he is half Mexican) — a major factor in a city whose population is almost half Latino. The show opens with Garcetti at a lectern, eulogizing the Los Angeles police chief, who had suddenly died, and appointing an interim successor. "The torch is passed to a worthy leader," he says. "One who will guide us through this next and even more difficult transition."

There is a proud tradition in California of actors transitioning from the screen to the statehouse. □

Media manhunt for Casey Anthony

ANDREW KEH

© 2011 New York Times

Early reports placed her in Ohio. Then came that sighting in California. But, wait, wasn't that her back in Florida, running across an airport tarmac with a white cloth over her head?

Just where in the world is Casey Anthony?

Shortly after midnight Sunday, Anthony – who on July

5 was found not guilty of killing her 2-year-old daughter Caylee – walked out of an Orlando, Fla., jail and seemingly into the midnight fog, somehow eluding a pack of reporters and television cameras that had tracked her closely.

Anthony's whereabouts remain unknown, but her disappearance has touched off a feverish next chapter

in the stubbornly unending saga, as media outlets big and small have searched, speculated and saturated the airwaves with an all-out effort that has mixed the fervor of a coast-to-coast manhunt with the success rate of the search for Bigfoot.

"This is a big mess," said Kim Showalter, president of Showalter Flying Service in

Orlando. "I wish they would just let it go."

Showalter said she has been bombarded with reporters' inquiries – and her terminals invaded by network cameras – because two of her clients' planes have been suspected, at different times, to have carried Anthony out of Florida. The first, a private Learjet, aroused the media's attention when it flew out of Orlando Executive Airport shortly after Anthony's release.

But that plane, Showalter insisted, carried only six golfing buddies headed home to Columbus, Ohio, bemused by the disturbance.

Since then, the media has focused on another plane, a single-engine jet owned by Todd Macaluso, one of Anthony's former lawyers. The most assiduous pursuers of this lead have been aided by technology offered by companies like FlightAware, whose website allows visitors to track the path of most flights in midair, private or commercial, with a five-minute delay.

Mark Duell, vice president of operations for FlightAware, said the site had experienced an upswing in traffic since Anthony's release, as well as an unusually high number of calls to its customer service line.

"It's sort of been humorous," Duell said. "From major national networks to the local papers, even members of the general public, it seems like everyone is trying to do detective work."

Reporters and networks tracking Macaluso's jet have now been led to wonder whether Anthony might be somewhere in Arizona, California, Louisiana,

or any of the other locations where the plane has landed since Sunday. When the plane returned to Orlando Tuesday, WFTV in Orlando breathlessly aired exclusive, raw footage of a woman who they said might be Anthony scurrying from the jet toward the terminal, her head obscured by a white cloth. But Showalter said it was just one of the passengers playing a joke on the press.

Anthony's lawyers have declined to comment on her location, concerned about all the public anger her acquittal stirred.

"This is very different from anything I've seen," said Carolyn Fennell, a spokeswoman for the Orlando Aviation Authority. "There's a joke down here that the space shuttle took off, and Casey Anthony must be on board."

Others elsewhere are also finding bleak humor in the situation.

Organizers of the Lexington Lions Club Bluegrass Fair in Kentucky sent out a fictitious press release on Monday announcing that Anthony had been found in their state.

They then hired a look-alike and stationed her at a dunk tank booth at the fair. Robin Turner, president of Fair Office, the company that produces the fair, said he agreed to remove the booth Tuesday once it began receiving negative attention in the press. But he said everyone in attendance seemed to enjoy the gag.

"The look-alike was great, making comments to the crowd in a good and clean way, you know, 'You throw like a prosecutor,'" Turner said. "She did an excellent job." □



In a July 19, 2011 photo, Harry Hosey winds up to throw a ball at the "guilty" target at a Casey Anthony dunking booth at the Bluegrass Fair at Masterson Station Park in Lexington, Ky. Organizers have shut down the booth in which a Casey Anthony lookalike taunted fairgoers to dunk her, citing "growing public sentiment" in deciding to close the game Tuesday.

(AP Photo/Herald-Leader, Hannah Potes)

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Plans for slavery museum may have ended

KATE TAYLOR

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FREDERICKSBURG, Va. — It's been 10 years since L. Douglas Wilder, the nation's first elected black governor, unveiled a plan to build the U.S. National Slavery Museum on 38 acres here.

It was to be the only institution of its kind, housed in a soaring glass-and-travertine building and illuminated at night so that cars passing on I-95 could see the full-scale replica of a slave ship in its atrium.

Today the land remains vacant and is drowning in tax bills.

The museum owes more than \$215,000 in property taxes and fees, dating to 2008. This month the city announced it is putting the land on the auction block. "It just seems that nothing has been happening, and nobody's answering any of the mail we send to them, so we're just doing the same thing to them that we'd do to anybody else," said G.M. Haney, the city's treasurer.

The museum's director has departed, its board no longer meets, its offices are abandoned, and the mu-

seum's state license to solicit donations has lapsed. Some people who donated artifacts to the museum years ago have demanded them back.

Wilder's only response has been a defiant posting on his website in February saying that the museum is not dead and that all the artifacts are "being safely held in storage."

Since then he has not responded to inquiries about the museum and did not respond to messages left with his assistant this week. In the post on his website in February he described the museum as a casualty of the recession and said it would go forward as soon as the economy picked up. His optimism is not shared, however, by a museum board member, the Rev. Lawrence A. Davies, who said he has not heard from Wilder in more than a year. "We tried on one or two occasions to get in touch but to no avail," he said. "There doesn't seem to be much evidence for hope at this point."

Under Wilder's plan, an estimated 2 million visitors a year were expected at the museum. There was to be

a library, a theater, classrooms, a garden featuring tobacco and cotton crops, and galleries featuring subjects like the Middle Passage, slave family life and

I.M. Pei, to design the museum. Pei's designs are still visible on his firm's website and on a faded and curled sign at the property that sits on a dead-end road, just

garden that Wilder opened in 2007 as a kind of marker for the future. A stone sculpture of a person lifting two hands toward the sky still stands in the garden,



Therbia Parker, who gave part of his collection of slavery and Jim Crow-era artifacts for display at the unbuilt United States National Slavery Museum, in Suffolk, Va., July 19, 2011. The museum owes more than \$215,000 in property taxes and fees, dating back to 2008, and this month, the city announced it is putting the land on the auction block.

(Brendan Smialowski/The New York Times)

the Civil War.

Wilder commissioned the architect C.C. Pei, a son of

beyond a stretch of chain stores. The only development at the site is a small

which is now padlocked, amid overgrown weeds and a few flowers. □

House built on trust in Virginia

KARRIE JACOBS

© 2011 New York Times

SCHUYLER, Va. — How do you get a house that is perfectly calibrated to your needs and sensibilities for only \$150,000? Well, it helps if your lifelong best friend is an architect and partner in a design-build firm, one in which the architects are also experienced contractors.

Alison Threatt, 36, grew up in Winston-Salem, N.C., where she met Yumiko Foust in the third grade. As teenagers, Threatt recalls, the two were quiet girls who played piano duets. "For us, an ideal Friday evening was listening to Harry Connick Jr., and going out and drinking tea."

A soft-spoken woman, Threatt graduated from the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville, and became a

nomad, living in Poland, Ecuador, Benin and Quebec. But always, she stayed in touch with her dearest friend because, "I'm an only child, so I think, for me, Yumiko is the closest person I have in my life as a sister." Her friend, meanwhile, studied architecture at Virginia Tech, where she met her future husband, Tom Virant. The Virants eventually settled in Asheville, N.C., and formed a business partnership designing and building houses.

In 2009, Threatt decided to return to Charlottesville, landing a job as a study-abroad adviser at the university. Unable to find a house she liked and could afford, she purchased four wooded acres for \$44,000. Then she worked up the courage to approach Yumiko Virant.

"Since Yumiko went to architecture school, it's been a dream of mine to have her build my house," Threatt said. "But I was shy about asking."

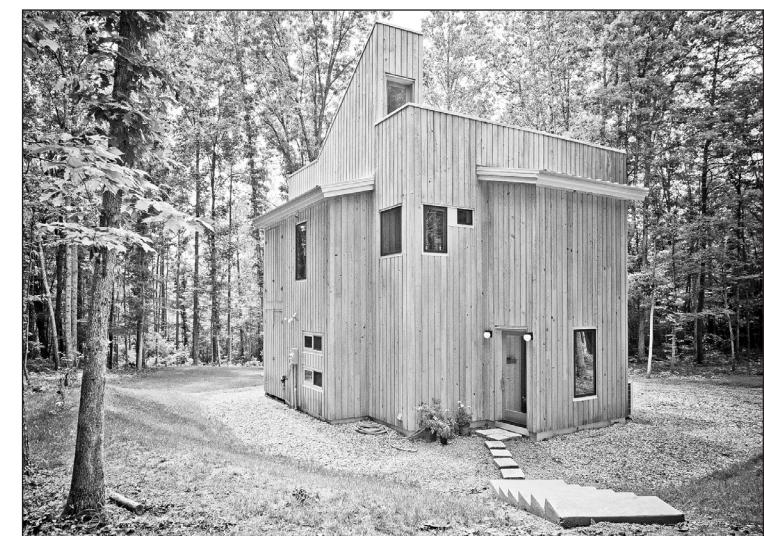
Of course, the Virants readily agreed.

But they calculated that on Threatt's \$150,000 budget, she could reasonably expect only 1,000 square feet of living space. "You may need to get rid of some things," Yumiko Virant cautioned.

Threatt made a list of the qualities she wanted in a home, what she calls a mind map.

On it were things like "being in the country," "feeling like I'm outside even if I'm inside," "silence," "music" and "lots of light."

She largely left the interpretation of those qualities up to the architects. "There



The exterior of the house that Yumiko Virant designed for her childhood friend, Alison Threatt, some 30 miles south of Charlottesville, Va. The house is basically a cube, 24 feet on each side, with bump-outs to accommodate bathrooms, the entryway and a second-floor closet.

(Darren Higgins/The New York Times)

was an amazing amount of trust coming from Alison," Tom Virant noted.

Completed last July, the house is essentially a cube with 24-foot sides. It sits within the Quarries, a heavily wooded eco-

development here, some 30 miles south of Charlottesville (which is also the real setting for the fictional Waltons). The landscape is dotted with abandoned soapstone quarries used as swimming holes. □

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Amid TV, film, comics and fans,

San Diego's annual Comic-Con International kicks off today!

MATT MOORE
Associated Press

Amid the crush of "Twilight" fans and displays of upcoming movies and TV

age, BOOM! Studios, IDW Publishing and Oni Press.

"The comics are what I like to call the gooey center of all pop culture," said Joe

Comic-Con is people are allowed to become superheroes; the streets are thronged with all kinds of people dressed up as their favorite comic characters," said Grant Morrison, a long-time writer of comics who is helming the upcoming relaunch of DC's "Action Comics" in September.

"I've always loved that nonjudgmental thing. The world becomes this weird Fellini-esque reality for a few days," he said.

Amy Boa, 18, of Dallas, was swept into the world of comics by actor Robert Downey Jr.

"When he did 'Iron Man,' I started following all that stuff," she said earlier this week, before heading to San Diego. Now, she's buying digital comics to read even though she "never re-

ally read comics before." The draw is so powerful that comic book websites send scores of writers to document every announcement and move by the creators. Would-be creators have their portfolios reviewed and seek advice from established pros.

Nicholas Kole, 23, went to Comic-Con last year with his portfolio in hand and ended up getting an assignment to provide a story for the annual "Flight" anthology — a thick, full-color digest of stories contributed by both experienced hands and unknown newcomers. This week, he's participating as a writer and artist and plans to do some networking as well.

"A lot of people complain these days that it's gone too commercial and it's not

enough about comics anymore. But last year was my first time there, so I've never known Comic-Con to be anything different!" he said. "That, combined with a confluence of weird obscure geek culture and obese men in Sailor Moon outfits? It's heaven," he said.

For the publishers, Comic-Con is a media-rich buffet in which to offer up new books, preview upcoming stories and give away freebies tied into their products. Mike Pasciullo, senior vice president of brand planning and communications at Marvel, said that while the added mix of TV and film may have shifted the axis of the event away from comics, it's those 32-page tales that remain the backbone. □



Signs promoting Comic-Con International are shown in San Diego. The 2011 Comic Con International kicks off tomorrow, July 21, 2011.

(AP Photo/Denis Poroy)

shows, the comic books that started it all at San Diego's annual Comic-Con are still there championing the heroes. It was four decades ago that the first Comic-Con was held at an aging downtown hotel, attracting only a handful of major guests. Today, some 130,000 fans will begin to converge on the San Diego Convention Center at what has become the planet's premier pop-cultural carnival. But make no mistake, Batman, the Con is still very much the comic-book fest that it once was.

Determined not to be eclipsed by Hollywood, hundreds of the industry's artists, writers and creators are attending Comic-Con this year, along with publishers ranging from DC Comics and Marvel to Im-

Field, who owns a comic book store in Concord, California, and has gone to the convention annually for the past 25 years.

"Movies, TV and video games all spin out of the creativity of telling stories with words and pictures," said Field, who founded the industry's annual Free Comic Book Day. "That's why the San Diego Con has become this sort of beehive of pop culture activity, because comics are really the genesis of visual entertainment."

Running through Sunday, the convention provides a one-million-square-foot playground where comic creators, consumers, collectors or just the curious can interact with each other — many in costume.

"The thing I love about



Comic-Con attendees dressed in Star Wars costumes cross the street in downtown San Diego outside of Comic-Con International in San Diego.

(AP Photo/Denis Poroy)

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GRAHAM BOWLEY

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LONDON – The heroics of Wendi Deng Murdoch drew gasps of awe when she lunged out of her seat in a committee room Tuesday to protect her husband, Rupert Murdoch, from a protester wielding a shaving cream pie.

But there was another woman who actually intervened before Wendi Murdoch did: Janet Nova, News Corp.'s interim group general counsel.

It may have gone unnoticed in the scuffle and in the media hype that ensued, but Nova was the first to react to the protester's approach. She leapt to her feet and, clutching her iPad, tried to block the man's reach toward her boss. Wendi Murdoch followed right behind her, and appeared to reach over Nova as she swung her arm in a great arc to deliver a sharp punch. Nova, who is 46 and is based in New York, is a graduate of Princeton and Columbia Law School who has been with the company since 1997.

She was one of the troupe of lawyers and public relations advisers who prepared Rupert Murdoch for his appearance before a parliamentary committee looking into phone hacking by the company's British newspapers.

Through more than two hours of questioning Nova, wearing a gray suit, sat patiently a few feet behind and to the left of Rupert Murdoch. When the protester – identified in British news reports as Jonathan May-Bowles, a comedian who performs under the name Johnnie Marbles – stormed toward the witness table, Nova provided the first line of defense and Wendi Murdoch the second, while James Murdoch, Rupert's 38-year-old son, seemed frozen in surprise.

It was a curious moment, transforming a hearing that was, for many onlookers, mainly about seeing Rupert Murdoch humbled into one in which he enjoyed at least a little bit of sympathy from the crowd in the room and from the millions of viewers who watched on television.

While Nova's role has gone largely unsung, Wendi Murdoch's actions immediately became a sensation on the Internet, where some people posting on Twitter coined a new verb – "I'll Wendi you!" – and others sought more information about "the woman behind the punch."

Nova has been in her post for only a short time. Rupert Murdoch wrote in a company email announcing her promotion on June 20 that she "has handled a number of major acquisitions for the company over the past several years, in addition to managing our corporate reporting and governance matters." □

Ahead of security transfer,

Bike bomb shakes Afghan city

ALISSA J. RUBIN

JACK HEALY

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KABUL, Afghanistan – The government of Afghanistan officially took control of security in the capital of Helmand Province on Wednesday as part of a sweeping effort to begin to disentangle Western forces from the country.

Highlighting the risk to Afghan civilians as the transition got under way, however, insurgents struck in one of the provincial capitals that is slated to be handed over later this week.

The attack by a suicide bomber on a bicycle was in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, which had been considered largely safe until this spring, when a mob attacked the United Nations compound there, killing seven employees. The attack Wednesday killed four people and wounded 12.

Both the government and its Western allies have made passing control of security to Afghans a centerpiece of the strategy here. For the government, it is a way to assert its sovereignty and prove to its citizens that it is not reliant on foreign forces. For Western countries, the transition will allow them to begin drawing down troops.

When President Hamid Karzai announced the first seven places – four cities and most of three provinces – to make the transition, he made it clear that security and the civilian transition would go hand in hand.

Over the last year, he has increasingly emphasized the message of national sovereignty.

"The people of Afghanistan don't want the foreigners to be in charge of security anymore," he told an audience at the Afghan military academy in Kabul in March. "Transition means taking responsibility for both security and develop-

ment. They have been in Afghanistan and are strongly anti-Taliban, ethnically homogeneous and relatively peaceful.

Of the four cities being transferred, two of them – Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand Province, and Mehtarlam in Laghman Province – are islands of relative calm in otherwise still violent and unpredictable



Gulab Mangal, governor of Helmand province, center, stands among the special forces of Afghan National Directorate of Security, during the transfer of authority from the coalition forces to Afghan security forces in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province south of Kabul, Afghanistan on Thursday, July 20, 2011. Coalition forces transferred responsibility in Lashkar Gah, the provincial province of Helmand in the south.

(AP Photo/Abdul Khaleq)

ment."

However, these first steps, which are being celebrated with ceremonies in each of the places where Afghans take over, test very little about the readiness of the country's forces.

Two of the provinces that will be transferred, Bamiyan and Panshir, have handled much of their own security during the nearly 10 years that international forces

have been in Afghanistan and are strongly anti-Taliban, ethnically homogeneous and relatively peaceful. The other two, Mazar-i-Sharif in Balkh Province in the north and Herat in the west, are in provinces that have been less violent than most others. The remaining place where the transfer is planned, Kabul Province, has a large concentration of security forces, both Afghan and Western, making it one of the best patrolled areas of Afghanistan. □

French politician questioned on Strauss-Kahn accusations

ANGELA CHARLTON

PIERRE SOUCHARD

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French investigators questioned a leading presidential hopeful Wednesday about a writer's accusation that Dominique Strauss-Kahn tried to rape her.

As the French probe picks up steam, it has unearthed unexpected claims about the former head of the International Monetary Fund. The writer's mother said in a newspaper interview published Wednesday that she herself once had a consensual sexual encounter with Strauss-Kahn.

Strauss-Kahn is also facing sexual assault charges in New York, where a hotel maid accused him of trying to rape her. Lawyers for the two women met jointly Tuesday with prosecutors in New York. Strauss-Kahn has denied wrongdoing in both cases.

It remained unclear what the prospects were for convergence between the two complaints.

New York prosecutors have asked whether the French writer, Tristane Banon,

would be willing to speak to them, but no definite plans have been made, according to a person familiar with the case. The person spoke

respond to phone messages seeking comment.

In Paris on Wednesday, attention turned to Francois Hollande, former head

been an expected contender before his May arrest.

Investigators are interviewing anyone who was told

fingers in her mouth and underwear as she fought him off. She says it happened in an empty apartment during an interview for a book she was writing.

Banon's lawyer says Hollande was one of those informed. Hollande showed up for questioning Wednesday afternoon at the special police brigade probing the claim and left about an hour later — compared to the six hours Banon's mother spent with investigators and more than five for Banon herself.

"I am completely ready" to be questioned about the "supposed incident," Hollande said in remarks broadcast on French television earlier in the day.

However, he insisted before entering the investigators' office and upon leaving it that "this affair doesn't concern me." Hollande has warned against any "political manipulation" in the case, clearly fearing it could taint his presidential candidacy.

Banon filed her complaint in France after Strauss-Kahn was arrested in the New York case. □



Former International Monetary Fund leader Dominique Strauss-Kahn leaves his Tribeca home with his wife Anne Sinclair in New York. French investigators questioned a leading presidential hopeful Wednesday about a writer's accusation that Dominique Strauss-Kahn tried to rape her.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation. Banon's attorney, David Koubbi, did not

of France's Socialist Party and a poll favorite for next year's presidential race — in which Strauss-Kahn had

about the 2003 incident in which Banon says Strauss-Kahn tried to wrench off her clothes and shoved his

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Ahead of meeting, talk of Greek default in the air

STEPHEN CASTLE

JUDY DEMPSEY

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BRUSSELS — European officials Wednesday continued to press for a rescue plan for Greece that would push the country into temporary default, despite warnings from the European Central Bank of the risk to bigger economies.

The leaders of the 17 member countries of the euro zone are to meet Thursday in Brussels to seek a way to keep the debt crisis from spiraling out of control after a week of market turbulence in which borrowing costs spiked in Italy and Spain.

Many see the meeting as a moment of truth, particularly for the German chancellor, Angela Merkel, whose caution has been blamed by some for the region's failure to stem the crisis, and who, earlier this week, played down expectations of a breakthrough Thursday.

"Nobody should be under any illusion: The situation is very serious," said Jose Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union. "It requires a response. Otherwise the negative consequences will be felt in all corners of Europe and beyond."

The commission was arguing for a plan that would have private creditors swap Greek bonds that mature before 2019 for new 30-

year bonds, thereby prompting a selective default, according to an official briefed on the negotiations who was not authorized to speak publicly. The terms of the plan would imply a 20 percent reduction in the value of Greek bonds, the official said, which would raise tens of billions of euros to be directed to support the Greek bailout. In addition, the other countries in the euro area and the International Monetary Fund would contribute 71 billion euros, or \$100 billion, to the rescue plan, up to 2014.

Meanwhile, a tax on the banks equivalent to 0.025 percent of the assets of financial institutions could raise around 50 billion euros over five years and would finance a buyback of Greek bonds via the euro zone bailout fund known as the European Financial Stability Facility, the official said. That would reduce the stock of Greek debt by around 20 percentage points of gross domestic product. Although a tax on banks has been discussed for several days, it had previously been presented as a tool for raising private-sector financing without provoking a default, rather than a means of raising additional money. There are also technical problems with a bank tax that would have to be levied by each national government and would exclude countries that did not use the euro even if they had Greek liabilities. □

Hurricane Dora reaches Cat. 4 off Mexico

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)

— Hurricane Dora rapidly grew into a Category 4 storm off Mexico's Pacific coast Wednesday while keeping out to sea and threatening coastal areas only with rain and tropical storm-strength winds.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said Wednesday night that the storm had top sustained winds had reached 135 mph (217 kph). It said Dora's center was about 235 miles (378 kilometers) southwest of Lazaro Cardenas, Mexico, and moving west-northwest at 16 mph (26 kph).

The fourth hurricane of the eastern Pacific season was forecast to stay offshore as it moved parallel to the coast for the next day or so. It could strengthen more before weakening begins Friday, forecasters said.

Mexican authorities issued a tropical storm watch from Lazaro Cardenas to Cabo Corrientes, meaning tropical storm conditions were possible within 12 to 24 hours.

The hurricane's outer bands brought rains to much of Mexico's southern coast, including the resort city of Acapulco. Police walked the beaches advising swimmers about the risk of strong waves.

In the Atlantic, Tropical Storm Cindy formed well out to sea and posed no threat to land. Its center was 665 miles (1,065 kilometers) east-northeast of Bermuda. It posed no threat to land.

Tropical Storm Bret was forecast to weaken to a tropical depression by Thursday as it moved northeast away from the Bahamas and well off the U.S. Atlantic coast.

Bret's maximum sustained winds were 45 mph (75 kph). Its center was about 270 miles (435 kilometers) south-southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and 480 miles (775 kilometers) west of Bermuda. □

France says Gadhafi could stay in Libya if he gives up power

STEVEN ERLANGER

© 2011 New York Times

PARIS — Foreign Minister Alain Juppe of France said Wednesday that Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi could remain in Libya so long as he completely gives up power, as part of a larger political deal, including a cease-fire, on the future of the country. Also, President Nicolas Sarkozy met with rebel leaders from the Libyan port city of Misrata, who were seeking further aid and arms for their fight to oust Gadhafi.

Sarkozy was publicly non-committal on the request, but one of the rebels, Suleiman Fortia, said later that France had been helpful "in many domains" and that it could help them get weapons from Arab countries. Juppe said that countries leading the fight against Gadhafi were discussing options for a political settlement of the war, in which the rebels, despite a significant NATO bombing campaign, have proved unable to reach Tripoli, the capital, or oust Gadhafi.

"One of the scenarios effectively envisaged is that he stays in Libya on one condition, which I repeat — that he very clearly steps aside from Libyan political life," Juppe said on the French television channel LCI. "A cease-fire comes about by a formal

and clear commitment by Gadhafi to give up his civil and military responsibilities."

In Washington, an Obama administration spokesman did not disagree with Juppe's remarks on Gadhafi. "He needs to remove

tained until Gadhafi agrees to a cease-fire and to give up all power.

Then some form of national reconciliation government should be established to create a new Libyan leadership, which is supposed to be responsible for what



A fisherman gives an explosive device to his fellow outside the rebel-held town of Benghazi, Libya, Wednesday, July 20, 2011. Libyan fishermen use dynamite as one of the easiest ways since the country is flooded with explosives from four months of fighting between rebels and Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi's forces.

(AP Photo/Sergey Ponomarev)

himself from power — and then it's up to the Libyan people to decide," the spokesman, Jay Carney, told reporters when asked about the French position. Western officials who met last Friday in Istanbul agreed that they must devise a set of negotiating principles, with the U.N. special envoy for Libya, Abdel Ilah al-Khatib, serving as the lead negotiator. They have agreed that military pressure will be main-

happens next to Gadhafi. Gadhafi's calculations are complicated by a warrant for his arrest on war-crimes charges issued by the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Some members of the anti-Gadhafi coalition are more willing than others for him and his family to remain in Libya, but Gadhafi is also bound to see the circumstances of the former Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, as a warning.

Mubarak gave up all power but was later arrested, with his sons, by the transitional, military-led government of Egypt.

The Misrata delegation — Fortia, who is the Misrata representative on the rebel National Transitional Council, plus three men described as rebel military leaders in the city, Gen. Ramadan Zarmuh, Col. Ahmed Hashem and Col. Brahim Betal Mal, and two other members of Misrata's "city council" — said that Sarkozy had been welcoming and supportive.

"To get help, there must be coordination," Fortia said later at a news conference. "France helps us in many domains."

The members of the delegation said that in Misrata alone, more than 1,500 people had been killed and 5,000 had been wounded since the war began.

Fortia rejected the idea that Gadhafi could stay in Libya indefinitely. "He's being demanded by the international court, so I don't think there's a place for him" in Libya.

He and others have described Tripoli as "a surrounded city, and there are revolutionaries inside the city."

Fortia added, "We're 150 kilometers away from Tripoli, and with a little bit of help from some friends, we will be in Tripoli very soon." □

OPEC: Venezuela's oil reserves top Saudi Arabia

IAN JAMES

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — OPEC's latest figures have Venezuela as the country with the biggest proven crude oil reserves ahead of Saudi Arabia.

But analysts said Wednesday it's an increase largely on paper and unlikely to lead to changes within the organization or affect oil markets.

Venezuela's proven crude reserves have risen to 296.5 billion barrels, surpassing Saudi Arabia's more than 264.5 billion barrels, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said in its annual statistical report issued last week.

"I don't necessarily think it's going to change the fundamental dynamics at OPEC," said Jason Schenker, an energy analyst and president of Austin, Texas-based Prestige Economics

LLC.

He and other analysts said Venezuela's reserves have apparently grown by including more of the country's unconventional extra-heavy crude, which is much more difficult and expensive to extract from the ground and to process than oil found elsewhere.

Schenker said that while Venezuela's reserves are "going to be critical for global oil supplies in the future, processing this oil into usable products is likely to be at a more expensive point in the cost curve than a number of crudes produced by different OPEC member states."

"The Saudis have power right now because they're the ones who have the spare capacity to produce more," said Schenker, who closely follows OPEC for his management consulting and market research firm.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said in January that the country had dramatically increased its oil reserves, saying it had surpassed Saudi Arabia. The amount of reserves now recognized by OPEC is a 40 percent increase over the 211.1 billion barrels Venezuela claimed at the end of 2009.

But experts have been leery, saying that the new figures are inflated and that Venezuela's oil industry is suffering serious problems.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration still considers Saudi Arabia to have nearly 50 billion barrels more in proven oil reserves than Venezuela.

Some analysts say extra-heavy crude like Venezuela's would normally be withheld from a country's official reserve count and relegated as "unconventional" oil like the Canadian oil sands and U.S. shale oil. □

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Famine aid hamstrung by militants in Somalia

JEFFREY GETTELMAN

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MOMBASA, Kenya — The United Nations on Wednesday officially declared Somalia's food crisis a famine in several parts of the country, with millions of people on the brink of starvation and aid deliveries complicated by the fact that Islamist militants aligned with al-Qaida control the famine zones.

The combination of one of East Africa's worst droughts in 60 years and Somalia's relentless conflict has depleted the country's food supplies, and tens of thousands of Somalis have died of malnutrition-related causes in the past few months, the United Nations said.

"If we don't act now, famine will spread to all eight regions of southern Somalia," said Mark Bowden, the United Nations' humanitarian coordinator for Somalia. "Every day of delay in assistance is literally a matter of life or death."

Speaking at the United Nations, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said that nearly half of Somalia's population — 3.7 million people — were now in crisis. A total of \$1.6 billion was needed to help, he added, with about

\$300 million of it required in the next two months to mount an "adequate response."

The Islamist militants who forced Western aid organizations out of Somalia last year, right as the drought

was looming, are now urging the groups to return. But aid officials are wary, citing the dozens of workers who have been killed in Somalia in recent years. Also hampering the emergency efforts, aid officials contend, are U.S. government rules that prohibit material support to the militants, who often demand "taxes" for allowing aid deliveries to pass through.

Somalia has lurched from crisis to crisis since 1991, when the central government imploded. In 1992, the same elements of drought and war set off a famine that killed hundreds of thousands of people and started a cycle of international intervention that, despite billions of dollars and more than a dozen transitional governments, has yet to stabilize the country.

Today, pastures have dried up and the animals that Somali nomads survive off of are dying in droves. Food prices are escalating, and after 20 years of anarchy,

coping mechanisms are collapsing, with many families driven from their land and many breadwinners cut down in Somalia's endless iterations of civil war. Many of those who can are fleeing the country, using what little money they have to pay for buses or simply walking, often hundreds of miles through the desert with children slung across their backs. Thousands of Somalis have been streaming across the borders of Kenya and Ethiopia every day, and many children arrive too far gone to be saved. In the Dadaab refugee camp along the Kenya-Somalia border, the hospitals are full of emaciated babies taking their last breaths.

United Nations officials are cautious about using the word famine, and in the past 20 years, only a handful of humanitarian emergencies have qualified, including in Sudan in 1998, Ethiopia in 2001 and Niger in 2005. □



African union peacekeepers soldier stand guard during a visit by Jerry Rawlings, AU envoy to Somalia, to displaced peoples camps in southern Mogadishu Somalia Wednesday July 20, 2011. Parts of southern Somalia are suffering from famine, a U.N. official said Wednesday, and tens of thousands of Somalis have already died in the worst hunger emergency in a generation. The Horn of Africa is suffering a devastating drought compounded by war, neglect and spiraling prices. Some areas in the region have not had such a low rainfall in 60 years, aid group Oxfam said.

(AP Photo/Mohamed Sheikh Nor)

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Bulgaria's Prime Minister goes after suspected crime lords

STEPHEN CASTLE

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SOFIA, Bulgaria — Arms pinned behind his back, Alexei Petrov lay with his face pushed to the floor after heavily armed masked police commandos raided his home early last year. The police then hauled him off in one of Bulgaria's most pronounced efforts to take on the godfathers of racketeering, kidnapping and prostitution who have eroded trust in the country's institutions and day-to-day life.

Released from jail in October 2010, then from house arrest this February, Petrov — who is known as "the Tractor" — still faces serious charges like racketeering and threatening to murder a business partner. But that has done little to quash his bravado.

The administration of Bulgaria's prime minister, Boyko Borisov, a former business partner of Petrov's, has taken aim at suspected crime lords in a cam-

be the first big name to be imprisoned here as an organized crime boss. This fractious ex-Communist nation faced strong doubts about whether it was ready to join the European Union when it was admitted in 2007. Frustrated with what it saw as rampant corruption, the union withheld hundreds of millions of euros in aid to the country's previous government.

Now Bulgaria's battle with organized crime is being seen as a test of whether, even after meeting the bloc's entry requirements, Western standards of law and order can truly be reached not only here, but in neighboring Romania and perhaps in other states, like Serbia, which has applied for admission.

"We are watching all the cases closely," said Mark Gray, a spokesman for the European Commission, the European Union's executive body. "The essential problem on organized crime remains the lack of

Though it praised police efforts to tackle criminal gangs, the commission said the results needed to improve significantly. The battle against high-level corruption has not yet yielded convincing results,

ed for 20 kidnappings; and "The Crocodiles," arrested in connection with an epidemic of robberies on Bulgaria's highways.

The prime minister claims that, thanks to him, "corruption becomes almost

bodyguard to the pinnacle of political power underscored how Bulgaria's transition from Communism blurred the lines of politics, state security and an aggressive, no holds-barred form of moneymaking that



Bulgaria's prime minister, Boyko Borisov, center, at a ceremony, in Sofia Bulgaria, July 5, 2011. The prime minister has singled out suspected crime lords, including a former business partner who says he may run for president, in a campaign called "Operation Octopus."

(Valentina Petrova/International Herald Tribune)



Alexei Petrov, who faces charges of racketeering and threatening to murder a business partner, in Kyustendil, Bulgaria, June 29, 2011. If convicted, Petrov would be the first big name to be imprisoned as an organized crime boss in Bulgaria.

(Valentina Petrova/International Herald Tribune)

paign called "Operation Octopus." In an interview, Petrov denied the charges against him while twirling a stick with a plastic octopus stuck to its top. He also said he was contemplating running for president.

If convicted, Petrov, a former karate champion and intelligence agent, would

convictions in important, high-level cases."

In a report released Wednesday, the commission said that the number of acquittals in cases involving high-level corruption, fraud and organized crime has "exposed serious deficiencies in judicial practice in Bulgaria."

it added.

Since he came to power in 2009, Borisov, the self-styled "Batman" of Sofia, says he has ended a rash of contract killings and kidnappings, rounding up a variety of gangs with nicknames like "the Killers," accused of murder for hire; "the Impudent," investigat-

impossible in the government." He is, he says, confident that Bulgaria will soon be given a date to join Europe's Schengen zone, where travelers can move between countries without showing passports.

Yet Borisov's own rise from fireman, judo coach and

sometimes seemed indistinguishable from organized crime.

After the fall of the Iron Curtain, security agents and elite sportsmen like wrestlers formed businesses that offered security and sold insurance, but often operated protection rackets. □

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As life in Venezuela passes by, residents find time to watch



People wait in a line to catch a bus in Petare, a run-down neighborhood of Caracas, Venezuela, May 30, 2011. Many things come and go in a bustling city, but waiting in a line is one thing that has been engrained in the culture of Venezuelans.

(Meridith Kohut/The New York Times)

SIMON ROMERO

© 2011 New York Times

CARACAS, Venezuela

Revolutions come and go. Construction frenzies reshape this city's skyline and then go bust, leaving white elephants as testament. Oil prices rise and fall, and rise again. But one thing, at least, endures: the lines. In front of government offices, banks, bus stops, cinemas, hospitals, hair salons and grocery stores, there they are: lines spilling out so prolifically onto sidewalks that they might make an Eastern European pencil-pusher chortle with remembrances of decades past.

"Lines for us are like a spouse from time immemorial whom we cannot stand, but without whom we cannot exist," said Jorge Sayegh, a columnist for the newspaper *El Universal* who wrote this year about Venezuelans' acceptance, even fondness, for lines. "We're attracted to lines like flies to honey; we actually love them."

Love for lines? That is certainly not the case for many here. But for others, who have spent a lifetime withstanding queue after queue without succumbing to despair or blinding rage, something beyond mere resignation and approaching appreciation takes root.

"Why make yourself upset

over such a thing?" asked Thais Estrada, 62, a retiree waiting in line one recent morning to pay an electric bill at a government-owned utility. "Standing in line is a chance to make new friends," she said while chatting with a woman next to her.

"After sharing this experience, we're virtually cousins now," said Estrada, managing a smile. "There are people embittered about standing in lines, but this is our system and we adapt to it."

Others, naturally, are less sanguine about all the lines for this and all the lines for that. One morning in this city's anarchic downtown, lines stretched out like an octopus' limbs in various directions from government offices, including the Social Security Institute, the Supreme Court and the Foreign Relations Ministry.

At one tower, housing the National Assembly and various courts, 117 people stood in one slow-moving line in the shadow of a mural of Jose Maria Vargas, a 19th-century Venezuelan leader, and his words, "The World Is of the Righteous Man."

Some flipped through newspapers. Others typed into BlackBerrys. Some hummed melodies or stared into space. Soldiers in fatigues milled about the

line, smoking cigarettes. Honking horns, bellowing car alarms and revving motorbikes provided the background music.

"Que ladilla," said an exasperated Paula Espinosa, 42, in line to get a copy of a wedding certificate. Her expression, commonly used here to refer to something or someone annoying, roughly translates as "What crab lice."

Espinosa explained that the line she was standing in outside was simply to gain access to the building's only working elevator. Other

lines, for other purposes, awaited her inside.

Risks other than boredom lurk for some who stand in Venezuela's lines. Crime pages of newspapers, for instance, run articles describing gunmen assaulting people in line, especially at banks. In one bank robbery, two thieves simply stood in line as if they were there to make a deposit, before proceeding with their heist. Economists and other scholars struggle to explain why Venezuela has such an extraordinary line-standing culture, even compared with the rich bureaucratic traditions of some Latin American nations. Some blame it on oil, and the byzantine state bureaucracy that coalesced to manage petroleum revenues.

Others, as is customary in some circles here, lay the blame on President Hugo Chavez. The president, this argument goes, has put Venezuela's bureaucracy on steroids, nationalizing dozens of private companies and increasing the number of ministries to 27 from 14 when he rose to power in 1999.

Still, despite all the new opportunities to stand in line at a government building here, a glance into Venezuela's history suggests that the nation's long lines have outlasted one president after another. □

The U.S. writer Erna Fergusson, who came here in the aftermath of the 27-year rule of the dictator Juan Vicente Gomez, described the series of lines she had to endure just to board a steamer from Maracaibo to Curacao. Her book, "Venezuela," was first published in 1939.

"Venezuela proved to be as difficult to leave as she is to enter," Fergusson wrote about her agonizing ordeal in five different offices, where she secured stamps, seals and permissions, including a petition from the City Council, allowing her to depart.

"For me," she concluded, "it was only a hot and wavering daze."

All the time spent standing under the Caribbean sun creates opportunities for some enterprising people. There is, of course, the profession of the "gestor," an expeditor who confronts Venezuela's churlish bureaucracy (lines included) on behalf of clients for a hefty fee. Some gestores are so skilled that they command the respect due someone who combines the knowledge of an accountant and a lawyer. Lowlier trades persist around Venezuela's lines, too. There are those who simply stand in a line for a price, holding the space for someone else. □



People wait in line for an elevator to enter a courthouse in Caracas, Venezuela, June 22, 2011. Many things come and go in a bustling city, but waiting in a line is one thing that has been engrained in the culture of Venezuelans.

(Meridith Kohut/The New York Times)

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Discover Shellac at Indulgence by the Sea Salon



ORANJESTAD – If you are in search of an hour of serenity and pampering, get yourself to Indulgence by the Sea Salon, located at the Tamarijn All Inclusive Beach Resort with ample convenient parking and easy access -- the door of the salon opens directly into the parking lot. The Full Service Salon is celebrating its first anniversary at the Tamarijn, however its sister Indulgence by the Sea Spa, located at the Divi All Inclusive Beach Resort, has been open for almost a decade.

Continued on page 14

Fantastic Polesitting amount for Fundacion Nos Comunidad



Everyone loves Aruba and more



Page 16

ORANJESTAD - The 2011 Polesitting Championship at Café the Plaza saw its culmination yesterday afternoon when the total amount of this fundraising activity was announced. Hans Nooter, owner of Café the Plaza, was clearly very pleased to be able to hand over a giant cheque with AWG. 17,165,86 written on it to Claudie Wegdam of the Fundacion Nos Comunidad, the Food Bank of Aruba. The handing over of the cheque was done in the company of the female polesitters. Not all of them could be present: 18-year old Lorenzo Stoc was not there as he had started a new job.

The 2011 Polesitting Championships were quite eventful, reminisced Claudie Wegdam, referring to problems with the roof over the polesitters' heads after a sudden downpour and the black-out which more or less ruined the finale of the recordbreaking 871/2 hours that Liesbeth Cornes (30) and Michelle Faassen (24) sat on their poles. However, all the hardships were forgotten when the winners received tickets to Curaçoa courtesy of DAE and Discovery Travel, a weekend stay at the Marriott Resort and dinner at Ruth Chris.

Continued on page 15

At the International School of Aruba

Aby Sneek-Smith earns Headmasters Award for Academic Excellence

Oranjestad – Aby-Sneek Smith graduated the International School of Aruba just recently and was recognized for academic excellence in AP English, Chemistry and Calculus, earning him the overall Headmasters Award for Academic Excellence, for the class of 2011. While at school Aby was a member of the National Honor Society and served as class President in 2010. He is one of the few ISA graduates who have started their education at the school with kindergarten, and completed their uninterrupted academic journey, as a graduating senior. Aby is preparing to attend Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne Florida, on a 50% academic scholarship. He will be majoring in Chemical Engineering

with a focus on renewable energy, setting his sights on a career with one of the major chemical companies, such as Dow and/or DuPont, where he is planning to serve as a second semester intern. Aby is seen in the picture receiving his certificate of academic excellence flanked by Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman, who was the evening's key note speaker, also entrusted with the honor of recognizing star students, and the school's representative, at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom, during the year end graduation celebration. Aby's step Dad Rob Smith of the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa and his wife Diana, Aby's mom and three sisters, are proud of Aby's accomplishments and his motivation to excel. □



Discover Shellac at Indulgence by the Sea Salon



clusive hotels they are inviting locals and guests from other

properties to stop by and enjoy the experience.

Indulgence by the Sea Salon offers the BEST manicures & pedicures in the

Caribbean, and is currently introducing Shellac by CND, a revolutionary nail color which goes on like nail polish, wears like gel and removed in minutes. Shellac allows a 14-day wear with a mirror finish, zero dry time, and no nail damage.

The new Shellac nail colors complement luxurious manicures and pedicures which include a Rose Petal Soak, Organic Sugar Exfoliation, a Rose Enzyme Organic Mask, an Aromatherapy Paraffin Dip, and a melt-away-from-it-all massage with deeply hydrating rose oil on arms, hands, lower legs and feet, for the ultimate in graceful hands and feet treatment.

The Salon also features an Organic Natural Makeup Line, a private label for Indulgence by the Sea which is especially designed for weddings and special occasions in a tropical cli-

mate.

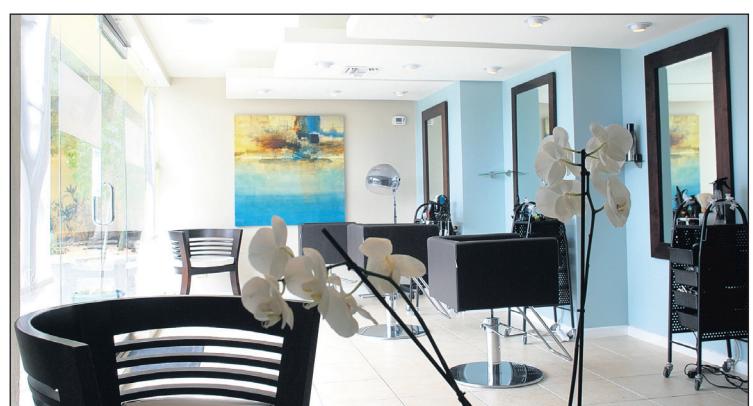
The Salon's Hair Studio menu is extensive and includes Shampoo, Blow Dry, Cuts, Formal Finishing, Damage Remedy, Highlights as well as Kerastase Masks.

Visiting and local Bridal Parties will find the salon especially accommodating, preparing brides, grooms and family members for the Big Day or for the exciting Rehearsal Party.

Finally as an added touch, Indulgence by the Sea serves complimentary wine, mimosas, coffee, and tea to all customers and should

you be interested in more information, you may peruse the full menu of services on line at www.spaaaruba.com

Pictured here from left to right are, Robyn Brete, Therapist and Nail Technician, Brigitte Pisciotti, Stylist and Nail Technician, Omaria Luz, Stylist and Nail Technician, Gwen Jie-Sam-Foek, Spa Director, Angie Wallace, Owner, Sharithe Giel, Nail Technician, Yolanda Angel, Stylist and Nail Technician. Indulgence by the Sea Salon is open 7 days a week from 9am-6pm. □



Continued from Page 13

Both Salon and Spa, under the direction of owner Angie Martinez, are best kept secrets on the island, while they do operate at all in-

Fantastic Polesitting amount for Fundacion Nos Comunidad

Continued from Page 13

For Marianne Groeneveld (26), who stayed on her pole for 56 hours, there was a workshop in glass bead making; Lorenzo Stoc received a gift certificate from Oduber and Kan.

From June 2 – 5 Café the Plaza in the Renaissance Marketplace was the place where it was all happening: volunteers of the Fundacion Nos Comunidad were busy organizing games and raffles to get funds, the sitters sat on their poles and lots of people came by to cheer on the sitters. Part of the proceeds of the polesitters formed part of the total amount as did the profit of the outside bar, which was



open 24 hours a day. Live music drew crowds and the atmosphere was, once again, terrific.

As the final photographs of the festive occasion at Café the Plaza were taken, journalists asked 4-time champion Liesbeth Cornes whether she would participate in the 2012 champion-

ships next year, but she shook her head. "I've had enough of sitting," she said. Michelle Faassen, however, said that it had not been all that hard after all. She added: "The hardest part came afterwards, when my mom took me horseback riding! My behind was still so sore, I could hardly sit down in the saddle." □

Read ARUBA TODAY every day



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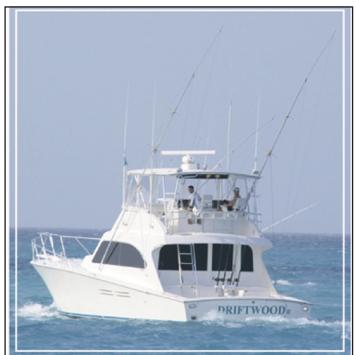
PALM BEACH - Leigh Vanasdall and Paula Miklova are here in Aruba for their

first time. They are good friends in Chicago where they live. This was a much

needed vacation. Paula works 2 jobs and Leigh works full time and still goes to school. They ate at Passions on the beach and loved it. They are staying at Club Arias and the love it there. They did the pizza night with Gabriel and loved it. They went snorkeling with Kent Gerber who is here on the Island for his 23rd time. The girls plan to return to One Happy Island some day. □



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean.

What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft.

Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II", is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to



Winners of Int'l. LUHSR Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

12 noon and from 1 pm to 5pm.

Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.



Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 3-course menu for just \$24.

Rates:

\$360 - 1/2 day

\$720- full day

Rates per boat
Max. 6 people

Driftwood Restaurant

Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat 12, Downtown Oranjestad
Tel: (297) 583 2515
www.driftwoodaruba.com
Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 1 0:30pm. □

Ogando pitches Rangers to 12th straight win

Texas Rangers starting pitcher Alexi Ogando throws against the Los Angeles Angels in the first inning of a baseball game in Anaheim, Calif., Tuesday, July 19, 2011.

Associated Press
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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

75 NFL retirees sue league

By ROBERT JABLON

Associated Press |

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mark Duper, Ottis Anderson and 73 other former players sued the National Football League, claiming it concealed information about the danger of concussions for decades.

The negligence, fraud and liability suit was filed Tuesday in Los Angeles Superior Court. Many players' wives also are plaintiffs.

The suit alleges the NFL knew as early as the 1920s of the harmful effects of concussions but concealed them from coaches, trainers, players and the public until June 2010. It also names helmet-maker Riddell, the NFL's official helmet supplier. It seeks unspecified damages. "We have not seen the complaint but would vigorously contest any claims of this kind," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said in a statement. Riddell spokeswoman Laura Moore said the company had not yet reviewed the complaint and its policy was to not comment on pending litigation. Concussions are movements of the brain inside the skull from an impact. The former players contend that they suffered repeated concussions from hits and tackles during their years in the NFL that caused brain damage. They contend the injuries left them with problems such as dementia, headaches, memory loss, blurred vision, sleeplessness and ringing in the ears.

Woods gets rid of Steve Williams as a caddie

DOUG FERGUSON

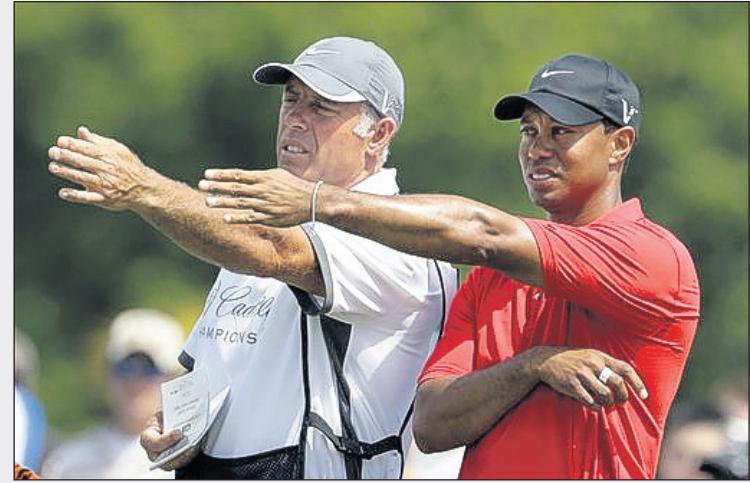
AP Golf Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Florida (AP) — Tiger Woods fired caddie Steve Williams on Wednesday, ending a 12-year relationship in which he won 72 times worldwide and 13 majors.

"I want to express my deepest gratitude to Stevie for all his help, but I think it's time for a change," Woods said on his website. "Stevie is an outstanding caddie

and a friend and has been instrumental in many of my accomplishments. I wish him great success in the future." Woods did not say who would replace Williams or when he would return to golf. Williams, who previously worked for Raymond Floyd and Greg Norman, had worked the last three tournaments with Adam Scott.

Continued on Page 20



This March 13, 2011, file photo shows Tiger Woods' caddie Steve Williams, left, and Woods, right, lining up a putt on the fourth hole during the final round at the Cadillac Championship golf tournament, in Doral, Fla.

Associated Press

MING DYNASTY ENDS

NBA star Yao Ming stands in front of his Chinese name after he announced his retirement during a press conference in Shanghai, China, Wednesday, July 20, 2011.

Associated Press



Chinese great Yao Ming retires from basketball

By DENNIS PASSA

AP Sports Writer

SHANGHAI (AP) — Wracked by injuries that curtailed his playing time in the NBA, Yao Ming called it quits on his basketball career Wednesday during a packed news conference in his hometown.

The Houston Rockets cen-

ter and No. 1 draft pick in the 2002 NBA draft confirmed weeks of speculation about his retirement by opening with a simple statement: "I will formally end my career."

He promised, though, that he wouldn't stay far away from the sport that made him a household name in

China. His impact expanded the NBA's influence into the world's most populous country, creating lucrative merchandise sales for the league and TV ratings that skyrocketed whenever the Rockets played.

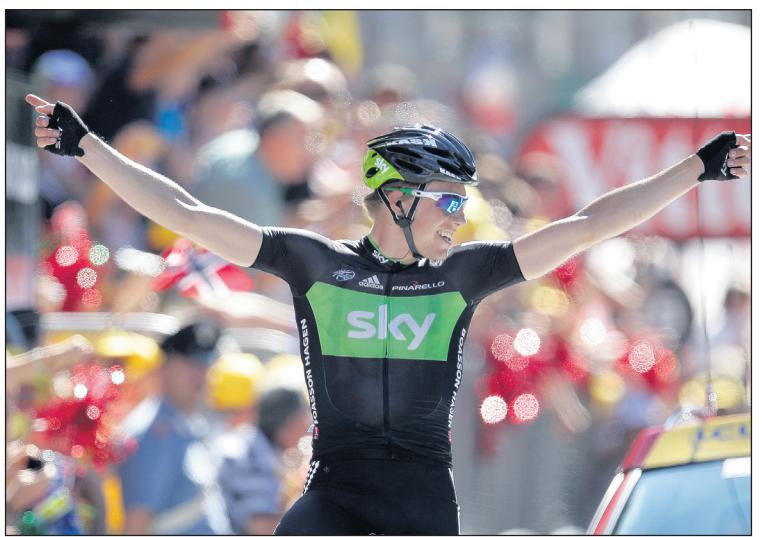
The 7-foot-6 Yao played eight seasons in the NBA, but missed an estimated

250 regular-season games over the past six years.

"Today is an important day for me and holds a special meaning for both my basketball career and my future," the 30-year-old Yao said in comments translated into English.

Continued on next Page

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Edvald Boasson Hagen of Norway looks back to see if he has enough advance on other riders as he crosses the finish line to win the 17th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 111.2 miles starting in Gap, France, and finishing in Pinerolo, Italy, Wednesday July 20, 2011.

Associated Press

NAOMI KOPPEL
Associated Press
PINEROLO, Italy (AP) — Edvald Boasson Hagen of Norway took the 17th stage of the Tour de France Wednesday, making up for the disappointment of being beaten into second the previous day. On the first of three punishing days in the Alps, France's Thomas Voeckler held on to the yellow jersey, but lost time after riding off the course on the final descent. In the race for the overall victory, defending champion Alberto Contador

made repeated attempts to get away from his rivals, but was caught on each occasion. He finished in the same time as his main rivals Cadel Evans, the Schleck brothers and Samuel Sanchez. Voeckler lost 27 seconds and is now 1 minute, 18 seconds ahead of Evans. 2010 Giro d'Italia champion Ivan Basso also lost time. Boasson Hagen completed the 111 miles across the Alps from Gap to the Italian town of Pinerolo in 4 hours, 18 minutes. Bauke Mollema of the Netherlands was second, 40 seconds back,

Boasson Hagen wins Tour stage; Voeckler loses time

with Sandy Casar of France winning the sprint for third. It was the second victory for Sky rider Boasson Hagen and the fourth for Norway in this year's race. He was beaten into second by his compatriot Thor Hushovd on Tuesday.

"It was very difficult yesterday, and today I was able to do better," said Boasson Hagen. "I didn't want to lose this race today."

He praised the large contingent of Norwegian fans that has been supporting him and Hushovd throughout the race. "It's really great to see all the Norwegian flags and Norwegian people around the course. It gives some extra power." Second place went to Bauke Mollema of the Netherlands, after Frenchman Jonathan Hivert crashed on the perilous final descent of the Pramartino. Sandy Casar of France was third, while Hivert got back on his bike and came in ninth.

Voeckler had several near misses as he tried to attack

during the last descent. He lost time but didn't crash.

"It's a pity, because I saw that Contador, Evans and the Schlecks finished together. If I'd taken fewer risks, I would have finished with them," he said.

Contador was not downhearted by his failure to get away.

"I felt good, and you've got to try," he said. He didn't want to talk about the stages to come. Evans, who becomes more of a favorite for the title with every day he keeps his advantage of nearly two minutes over Contador — Voeckler is expected to fade — said it had been a difficult final descent. "With shadows and stuff it was real hard to see. Voeckler ran off the road in front of me — twice I think. It makes you take things more cautiously. You don't ever want to lose time to anyone," the Australian said. "I've got a good advantage over Alberto now, but Alberto has shown in years gone by what he can do

when he's really at his top." Britain's Mark Cavendish came in 166th of the 169 finishers, more than 14 minutes behind Boasson Hagen, but still held on to the green jersey for the best sprinter after four victories in the flat stages. Six of his HTC-Columbia teammates nursed him through to the end.

Thursday's second of the three Alpine stages contains three climbs that are so steep they aren't even given a category. It ends with the 14.2-mile climb of the famed Col du Galibier. The full stage is 125 miles, starting at Pinerolo. Outside the racing Wednesday, Russian team Katusha confirmed that rider Alexander Kolobnev's backup sample tested positive for a banned masking agent. Kolobnev became the first rider in this year's Tour to fail a doping control when his urine sample taken after the fifth stage had traces of Hydrochlorothiazide, a diuretic that can hide the presence of other drugs. □

Yao Ming

Continued on next Page

A third stress fracture in his left foot at the end of last year virtually took the decision out of his hands.

"My past six months were an agonizing wait. I had been thinking (about my future) over and over," he said. "Today I am announcing a personal decision: ending my career as a basketball player and officially retire. But one door is closing and another one is opening."

Yao said he will return to work with his former Chinese team, the Shanghai Sharks, with the possibility of becoming general manager. He already owns the club and wants to contribute more.

"My playing career started with the club. I hope I can do something for it," Yao said.

He also plans to continue his philanthropic work with

his Yao Foundation. Houston general manager Daryl Morey attended the conference and had to get permission from the NBA to attend the formal farewell as the lockout prohibits contact with players. Morey said he was tired from the long trip for the media conference but "I would be sorry if I wasn't here."

"It's a big moment," Morey said. "Yao had a sense of humor, a great attitude and sense of working together. I hope we can continue his culture in the NBA."

NBA commissioner David Stern sent a statement describing Yao as a "transformational player and a testament to the globalization of our game."

"His dominant play and endearing demeanor along with his extensive humanitarian efforts have made him an international fan favorite and provided an extraordinary bridge be-



Standing in front of his Chinese name, "Ming," NBA star Yao Ming delivers a speech of his retirement during a press conference in Shanghai, China, Wednesday, July 20, 2011. The Houston Rockets center has made it official, telling the packed news conference in his hometown that a series of injuries have forced him to retire from basketball.

Associated Press

tween basketball fans in the United States and China," Stern said.

Yao entered the Grand

Shanghai Ballroom dressed in a dark suit, after the master of ceremonies led a countdown to his arrival.

Yao's wife, Ye Li, and their 14-month-old daughter, Yao Qinlei, and Yao's parents, Yao Zhiyuan and Fang Fengdi, were in the room. Qinlei was dressed in a red qipao, a traditional Chinese dress. He later appeared with his family on the stage to the applause and cheers of the room.

He thanked his family,

friends, coaches in China and in Houston and fellow competitors like Shaquille O'Neal "for making me a better player."

"I will be always with you,"

he added. "Thank-you."

Later, Yao was asked by a Dutch journalist whether he might consider coaching in the Netherlands, to which he politely declined, smiling. He said he had no immediate plans to start his own clothing or athletic equipment lines, either, but didn't rule it out in the fu-

ture. Despite news of Yao's pending retirement being out for several weeks, the actual announcement was treated with the pomp that Yao's appearance in China brings.

Media were asked to sign up weeks in advance for the conference and show up two hours early Wednesday to pass through airport-style security checks.

The room was crammed at the back with dozens of television cameras and black-suited security men outnumbered the hundreds of media at various stages.

China Central Television was to carry five continuous hours of Yao coverage beginning at 1 p.m. local time, including 90 minutes live from the media conference.

Yao's contract expired after last season, and the Rockets said they were interested in re-signing him if he came back healthy. □

AL Roundup

Rays rally past sloppy Yankees, win 3-2

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida

(AP) — The Tampa Bay Rays took advantage of sloppy New York defense to edge the Yankees 3-2 in the American League on Tuesday.

Tampa Bay starter Jeremy Hellickson (9-7) pitched seven strong innings, retiring 13 of 15 batters after giving up a two-run homer in the third. That helped the Rays stay close until they finally broke through against Bartolo Colon (6-6) in the seventh.

With two on, New York center fielder Curtis Granderson lost track of a fly ball looking up toward the roof, allowing a single that loaded the bases. It looked as though the Yankees might escape the jam when the next batter, Elliot Johnson, hit a tailor-made, double-play grounder back to the mound, but pitcher Boone Logan failed to collect it in an error that enabled the Rays to tie it 2-2.

A sacrifice fly by former



New York Yankees center fielder Curtis Granderson reacts as a ball hit by Tampa Bay Rays' Justin Ruggiano falls in front of him during the seventh inning of a baseball game Tuesday, July 19, 2011, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

Yankee Johnny Damon drove in the go-ahead run from third, beating Granderson's wild throw to home plate. Rays reliever Joel Peralta worked a perfect ninth for his first save.

Rangers 7, Angels 0

In Anaheim, Alexi Ogando extended an extraordinary run by Texas pitchers by throwing eight scoreless innings as the Rangers made it 12 straight wins by shutting out Los Angeles.

Winning the opener of a three-game series, Texas increased its AL West lead to a season-best five games over the Angels.

The 12-game streak is the second-longest in club history behind a 14-game run in 1991, and it has put the Rangers (56-41) a season-high 15 games over .500. The pitching staff has yielded just two earned runs across the past six games — including four shutouts.

Ogando (10-3) won his third straight start, lowering his ERA to 2.72.

Endy Chavez, the No. 9 batter, hit a two-run homer in the eighth. Josh Hamilton and Adrian Beltre added solo shots in the ninth.

Angels starter Tyler Chatwood (5-6) gave up three runs and four walks in five innings.

Orioles 6, Red Sox 2

In Baltimore, Jeremy Guthrie allowed only two runs over seven innings in an effort that belied his record as the pitcher with the most losses in the majors this season, steering Baltimore past Boston.

Guthrie (4-13) walked only one as he ended a run of losing his past seven decisions against the Red Sox. Derrek Lee and Mark Reynolds hit successive homers in the eighth to turn a one-run lead into a more comfortable cushion for the Orioles, who lost their previous seven games against Boston this season.

Red Sox starter Kyle Weiland (0-1) yielded three runs in six innings.

Twins 2, Indians 1

In Minneapolis, Danny Valencia hit a two-run single in the ninth inning, sending Minnesota to a victory over Cleveland.

Indians All-Star closer Chris Perez (2-5) walked Joe Mauer and gave up a double to Michael Cuddyer. Jim Thome was intentionally walked to load the bases, and Valencia followed with a bloop single.

Twins closer Glen Perkins (2-1) picked up the win in relief.

Tigers 8, Athletics 3

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera and Carlos Guillen each hit a two-run homer in Detroit's six-run fifth inning against Oakland.

The Tigers trailed 3-1 before they grabbed control in the fifth against Guillermo Moscoso (3-5), who allowed six runs in 4 2-3 innings.

In other AL games it was Baltimore 6, Boston 2; Detroit 8, Oakland 3; Toronto 6, Seattle 5, 14 innings; Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Yankees 2; Kansas City 4, Chicago White Sox 2; Minnesota 2, Cleveland 1; and Texas 7, L.A. Angels 0. □

NL Roundup

Brewers beat slumping Diamondbacks

PHOENIX (AP) — The Milwaukee Brewers stayed

right on the tail of surprise packet Pittsburgh in the National League Central, beating the slumping Arizona Diamondbacks 11-3 on Tuesday, with Ryan Braun hitting one of three first-inning homers in his return to the lineup.

Braun was back after missing 10 of Milwaukee's past 13 games with nagging left calf and hamstring injuries. Corey Hart and Yuniesky Betancourt also homered in the first inning for Milwaukee, which remained one game behind the Pirates. Betancourt added a two-run homer in the ninth for his first career two-homer game and Rickie Weeks had a solo shot in the third.

Milwaukee starter Yovani Gallardo (11-6) allowed one earned run over six innings. The Diamondback have lost five of six. Barry Enright (1-4) got the loss.

Rockies 12, Braves 3

In Denver, Ubaldo Jimenez brushed aside both Atlanta's powerful bats and incessant trade talk, guiding Colorado to victory.

Jimenez (6-8), who has won five of his past six decisions, allowed two runs in 6 2-3 innings. He left to a standing ovation from fans hoping he stays in purple pinstripes. Jimenez has been mentioned in trade talk but is signed for the next three years at just under \$18 million.

Troy Tulowitzki and Carlos Gonzalez homered for the



Milwaukee Brewers shortstop Yuniesky Betancourt makes a diving stop in the first inning during a baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks on Tuesday, July 19, 2011, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

Rockies, who won for the first time in six tries against the Braves this month.

Atlanta starter Brandon Beachy (3-2) allowed six earned runs while struggling through 4 2-3 innings.

Giants 5, Dodgers 3

In San Francisco, Brandon Belt hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the seventh inning in his first game back in the majors, lifting San Francisco over Los Angeles. Belt, called up from Houston for two minor league pitchers and placed infielder Miguel Tejada on the disabled list with an abdominal strain. □

tired in his next two trips to the plate, then lined a bases-loaded double down off Hong-Chih Kuo (0-1).

Giants starter Madison Bumgarner (5-9) struck out seven in eight innings, yielding four hits. It's the first time in 18 starts at AT&T Park that Bumgarner has received more than three runs of support. In addition to bringing up Belt, the Giants acquired second baseman Jeff Keppinger from Houston for two minor league pitchers and placed infielder Miguel Tejada on the disabled list with an abdominal strain. □

Evian Masters becomes 5th major on LPGA Tour

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

EVIAN-LES-BAINS, France (AP) — The Evian Masters in France will become the fifth major on the LPGA Tour from 2013, LPGA Tour

Commissioner Mike Whan said on Wednesday.

"In 2013 you will return to the fifth and final major on the LPGA Tour," Whan said on Wednesday, adding that "a new page in wom-

en's golf history."

The Evian Masters began in 1994, when Sweden's Helen Alfredsson won. Tournament chairman Franck Riboud said the tournament will be moved to the second week of September from 2013. "It will be the last one of the year and we are very proud of that," Riboud said, adding that the tournament will change its name and be called the Evian Championship when it becomes a major.

The tour's other majors are the Kraft Nabisco Championship, the U.S. LPGA Championship, the U.S. Women's Open and the Women's British Open.

"The Evian Masters has always been an elite tournament in the world of women's golf," 2007 U.S. Open champion Cristie Kerr said. "Players on the LPGA have always considered the Evian Masters on par with the best tour events in all of golf. As an LPGA major, Evian will continue, as it has

always done, to reach new heights year after year."

Field and qualifying criteria for 2013 has not been finalized, Whan said, adding that other majors — such as the Kraft Nabisco — are not under threat and there is no plan to remove one of them in the future.

"Kraft isn't going away in 2013 and there is no hidden agenda," Whan said. "Kraft Nabisco is going to be a time, a place on our schedule as long as I'm commissioner. The plan is to have five truly mega events."

Modifications to the size of the Evian course and length of the holes will need to be made.

"This is big, and this is bold," Whan said. "We're going to take what was already one of the greatest settings in the game, what was already one of the greatest atmospheres in the game, what was already one of the greatest fields in the game and we're going to

put on it one of the greatest monikers in the game."

Riboud said refurbishment plans are scheduled to start in December, but that the tournament will be played as usual next year, before renovation continues in September 2012.

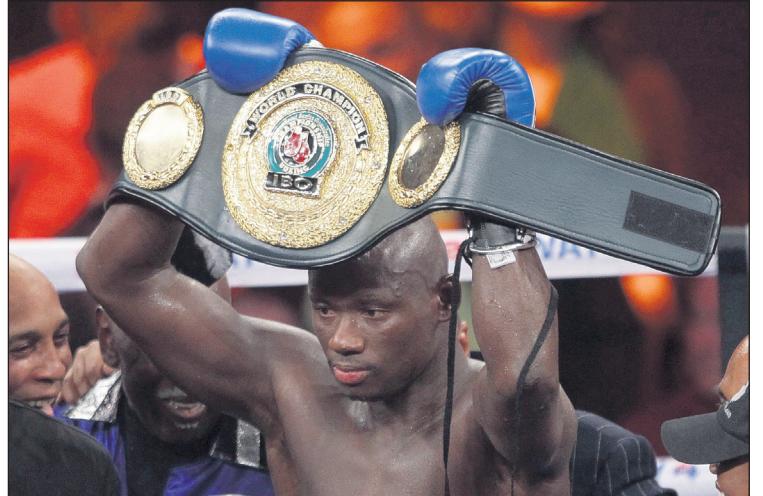
Riboud added that he hopes to make it "an organic golf course" by using very few fertilizers and taking advantage of Evian's natural spring water.

"Nature friendly, with Evian's nature," he said. "We will not import something from the outside."

Riboud added that Evian will strive to keep a unique, family-orientated atmosphere, despite its new status as a major.

"The thing we want is to keep the atmosphere," Riboud said. "We want the Evian Masters to continue to be a real experience for everybody, not just the players but also the caddies. ... We want to keep this as a family party." □

Tarver beats Green to take IBO cruiserweight title



American Antonio Tarver shows off his new IBO cruiserweight belt after he defeated champion Danny Green of Australia at the Entertainment Center in Sydney, Australia, Wednesday, July 20, 2011.

Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — Antonio Tarver stopped defending champion Danny Green in the ninth round Wednesday to claim the IBO cruiserweight world boxing title. The 42-year-old American was in control from the start at the Sydney Entertainment Centre and twice hurt Green in the first round. He then knocked him in

the second. The referee stopped the fight following the ninth after a punishing round for Green, who was defending the IBO title for the fifth time.

Tarver, a three-time light heavyweight world champion, improved to 29-6 with 20 knockouts, while Green is 31-4 (27 KOs) after his first defeat since 2006. □

Serena Williams into U.S. Open with special ranking

WHITE PLAINS, New York (AP) — Serena Williams is using her special injury-protected No. 1 ranking to get into the U.S. Open field. She is ranked 172nd this week, and only the top 105 players have been granted direct entry into the field for the year's last major championship, which starts Aug. 29 in New York. But because Williams was sidelined more than six months by a series of health issues, she has the right to use her special ranking to enter up to eight tournaments, including one Grand Slam. The U.S. Tennis Association announced Wednesday that the provisional field for the U.S. Open has 97 of the



Serena Williams, of the Washington Kastles, addresses the media during a news conference before a World Team-Tennis match against New York Sportimes, Wednesday, July 20, 2011, in New York.

Associated Press

top 100 women in the WTA rankings, including two-time defending champion Kim Clijsters, Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova and French Open champion Li Na. □

Woods

Continued from Page 17



Australia's Adam Scott jumps up on the 9th fairway to watch his shot as his caddie Steve Williams takes his club during the second day of the British Open Golf Championship at Royal St George's golf course Sandwich, England, Friday, July 15, 2011.

Associated Press

That included the last two majors, which Woods skipped while trying to recover from injuries to his left leg.

When asked over the weekend at the British

Open if he was still working for Woods, Williams grinned and said, "Why would you ask a question like that?"

He never answered the question but gave no indication that he would not caddie for Woods when he did return.

In fact, Williams told The Associated Press he had known for two weeks they would no longer be working together, since meeting with Woods in a board room at Aronimink after the final round of the AT&T National. Williams said he chose to keep quiet out of respect to Scott, not wanting the Australian to face queries from the British media at Royal St. George's. The caddie posted a comment on his website that it "came as a shock." "Given the circumstances of the past 18 months working through Tiger's scandal, a new coach and with it a major swing change and Tiger battling through injuries, I am very disappointed to end our very successful partnership at this time," he said.

In a telephone interview,

Williams said he was not upset by being fired and said he was proud to have been fired only twice in his 33 years as a caddie — by Woods and Norman.

"But I'm disappointed in the timing of it," he said. "To be as loyal as someone can be, and with what one had to go through over the last 18 months . . ."

Williams said he would continue working for Scott. More than a caddie, Woods and Williams had been close friends. Both got engaged while on safari after The Presidents Cup in South Africa, and they were in each other's weddings. Woods played the New Zealand Open in 2002 and even took part in Williams' other job as a race car driver. The relationship began showing signs of strain after Woods crashed his car on Thanksgiving night, followed by stunning revelations of multiple extramarital affairs that led to Woods getting divorced. Woods' ex-wife and Williams' wife were close friends, and Williams went months before hearing anything from Woods. □

AP Source: No player vote Wednesday on NFL deal

BARRY WILNER

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Pro Football Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — A person familiar with the NFL negotiations told The As-

sociated Press that players would not vote Wednesday on a deal to end the lockout.

The person said there remained work to do to final-

ize an agreement between owners and players. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the process was supposed to remain confidential.

The NFL Players Association's executive committee and representatives of all 32 teams met Wednesday in Washington, but some participants left in the afternoon after reviewing portions of a tentative deal. A second person told the AP on condition of anonymity that players were going to relay information to teammates.

It's possible players will vote Thursday.

Early Wednesday, NFLPA president Kevin Mawae cautioned not to assume the lockout will be over by the weekend, saying that his group was "not tied" to a deadline for getting a deal done in the next 24 hours.

"We want to go back to work," Mawae said outside NFLPA headquarters in the morning, "but we will not agree to a deal unless it's the best deal for the players."

If the four-month lockout — the NFL's first work stoppage since 1987 — is going to end in time to keep the preseason completely intact, the players and owners almost certainly must ratify the deal by Thursday. The St. Louis Rams and Chicago Bears are scheduled to open the preseason

risk of long-term brain injury to players. The suit contends that the committee published "false, distorted and deceiving" findings that the risk was minimal in order to deceive Congress, players and the public. The NFL only warned active players in June 2010 of the risks associated with multiple concussions and Riddell failed to warn active players until around the same time, the suit claims. The NFL has never warned past players, according to the suit. □



DeMaurice Smith, Executive Director of the NFLPA, is asked a question as he arrives at the NFL Players Association offices in Washington, Wednesday, July 20, 2011. An end to the NFL lockout appears close, with both sides preparing to vote on a proposed deal once it is finalized.

Associated Press

Retirees

Continued from page 17

Some claim the injuries caused depression, anxiety, "explosive mood changes," poor judgment and substance abuse. According to the suit, the NFL knew for decades that multiple blows to the head can cause long-term brain injury but fraudulently denied it, even as independent evidence showed that players were at risk. The Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Committee was established by the NFL in 1994 to study the

who are due to be there Thursday

New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, who is on the labor committee, wasn't expected to participate because his wife died Wednesday, at age 68, after a battle with cancer.

If owners do vote Thursday, at least 24 would need to OK the deal. If it's passed by both sides, team executives would be schooled later that day and Friday in Atlanta in the guidelines and how to apply them; topics would include the 2011 NFL calendar, rookie salary system and new free agency rules. □

Aug. 7 in the Hall of Fame game.

"Our goal today is to see what is on the table and discuss outlying issues," Mawae said. "The players are not tied to a July 21 timeline. Our timeline is that which gives us the best deal for the players — today, tomorrow or whatever it might be."

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and nine of the 10 members of the owners' labor committee arrived at a hotel near the Atlanta airport on Wednesday, so they could decide whether to recommend a finalized proposal to all club owners.

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A film for foodies:

Culinary creativity sadly comes to an end at elBulli

JOCELYN NOVECK

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For a foodie, the new film about Spain's renowned elBulli restaurant is a bit like an Angelina Jolie movie for a teenage boy.

That boy's never going on a date with Angelina. And sorry, dear foodie, but you're never gonna eat at elBulli. Well, at least food lovers can now salivate via celluloid. "El Bulli: Cooking in Progress," a meticulous exploration of how this famously avant-garde eatery comes up with its insanely inventive creations, may not be for everyone. But for those passionate about the artistry and indeed the science of cooking, it's dangerously close to porn.

And for some, perhaps close to tragedy, too. Co-owner and chef Ferran Adria announced earlier this year

take three, four, maybe five hours to eat, for 50 lucky diners a night. Just a few names give you a sense of their unique nature: A gorgonzola tree. A parmesan crystal. A coconut sponge. Iced peppermint. "Vacuumized" mushrooms.

Or vanishing ravioli — with a pasta envelope, coated in maltodextrin, that literally disappears in front of your eyes.

"What fascinated me was the process," Wetzel said in an interview this week from his home in Munich. "How do they do it? What does it take to get to these ideas?" And so the 38-year-old director, who by the way professes not to be a foodie, spent most of his shooting time not at the restaurant, which is on the coast a few hours from Barcelona and is open only six months a year, but in its lab in the



This image courtesy of Alive Mind Cinema shows an aerial view of elBulli in Geron Wetzel's documentary, "elBulli: Cooking in Progress," in Geron, Spain. Only the very, very luckiest of eaters will ever be able to say they ate at elBulli, Ferran Adria's insanely inventive restaurant in Spain where dinner can be up to 50 palette-bending courses — especially because it closes on July 30. Wetzel's documentary on the eatery has its U.S. premiere just a few days before elBulli closes.

(AP Photo/Alive Mind Cinema)

a bad hard drive. The team protests that they still have lists on paper. "I don't want it on paper, I want it on the computer!" Adria retorts. "This is a disaster." At another point, he rejects a dish curtly: "Don't give me anything that's not good." There are also some unintentionally very funny moments, like when the two chefs go to the local market and ask for five single grapes for their testing — and three beans. "You get away with everything," remarks the merchant. At another market visit later on, they ask the merchant not to discard the tongue of a fish. Anything might be fodder for a new creation, after all. Wetzel notes how Adria's team also works with the cartilage of a calf shoulder — something others would surely throw

away. "For them, the way they work, this cartilage has value equal to caviar," he says. After the film has spent a good hour showing painstaking lab work — Rachael Ray's cooking show, this is not — the action shifts to the coast, and opening day of the new season. We see an army of new workers, some of them interns, who have come from all corners of the world to work with these Spanish masters. And as the staff revs up for the incoming crowd, Adria and his lieutenants are still refining, experimenting, tasting. Adria sits down for a rehearsal of new dishes. The tension is almost unbearable as he tastes one, then says nothing for many seconds.

We also see the birth of a new, typically elBulli dish: A silky cocktail of hazelnut

oil, water and two crystals of salt. Testing such a cocktail at one table, a server comes back in a panic: Fizzy water has mistakenly been used, instead of still water. The chefs consult. Maybe they should keep it fizzy? Maybe that will make it even more interesting! During three years of overall work on the film, there was one thing Wetzel and his team never did: Taste the famous food they were documenting.

But once shooting was complete, they finally got a taste.

"To spend five hours doing nothing but thinking and talking about food — it was an experience," he says. And a relief, too.

"After all that time and work, I was just so glad that it was really, really good," he says. □



Spanish chef Ferran Adria as he tastes some food in the kitchen of his restaurant elBulli in Roses, Spain.

(AP Photo/Manu Fernandez, file)

that on July 30 he will close his restaurant, a winner of three Michelin stars and countless other honors. Citing financial struggles and a need to regroup after years of exhausting work, he said elBulli would become a think tank and research facility.

German filmmaker Geron Wetzel had no inkling of this when he shot his film, training his cameras on elBulli's creative team for 10 hours-plus per day, a week at a time, over 15 months in 2008 and 2009.

But the news, which came during editing, didn't change his goal, which was to show the laborious, indeed painful, process of creating art — in this case, edible art, dishes for an ever-changing menu of 30 to 50 courses that can

city. There, a few top chefs spend the other six months creating the next season's menu.

The work Wetzel displays is more than painstaking. Adria's main deputies, Oriol Castro and Eduard Xatruch, labor and philosophize over the consistency of a mushroom. What happens when you "vacuumize" it? (A machine is used.)

And what can we do with a sweet potato that's never been done? What can we extract from it? All this is shown with no narration whatsoever.

"This is very hard work, and I wanted people to see that," says Wetzel. And so he didn't shy away from the difficult moments, including one where chef Adria berates his team for having lost some data on



This image courtesy of Alive Mind Cinema shows elBulli chef Eduard Xatruch at work in Geron Wetzel's documentary, "elBulli: Cooking in Progress," in Geron, Spain.

(AP Photo/Alive Mind Cinema)

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S. Korean students ditch paper for digital books



In this Friday, July 15, 2011 photo, teacher Yeon Eun-jung, right top, gives a lesson to students, using tablet PCs at Sosu Elementary School in Gwesan, South Korea. Associated Press

SAM KIM
Associated Press
GOESAN, South Korea (AP)
— Outside the classroom a hot summer day beckons, but fourth-grade teacher Yeon Eun-jung's students are glued to their tablet PCs as they watch an animated boy and a girl squabble about whether water becomes heavier when frozen.

The small scene in this rural town is part of something big: South Korea is taking a \$2 billion gamble that its students are ready to ditch paper textbooks in favor of tablet PCs as part of a vast digital scholastic network. France, Singapore, Japan and others are racing to create classrooms where touch-screens provide instant access to millions of pieces of information. But South Korea — Asia's fourth-largest economy — believes it enjoys an advantage over these countries, with kids who are con-

sidered the world's savviest navigators of the digital universe. A 2009 study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a Paris-headquartered grouping of wealthy na-

tions, found 15-year-olds in South Korea scored highest in their ability to absorb information from digital devices, beating runners-up New Zealand and Australia by a large margin.

At Sosu Elementary School

in Goesan, principal Jo Yong-deuk speaks of a future in which his students interact in virtual reality with Ludwig van Beethoven and Abraham Lincoln. In the classroom, the children scribble answers in their tablet PCs with touch-screen pens as they watch the video clip explaining the scientific properties of frozen water.

"I liked this chapter, but my favorite clip is one where they show how flowers blossom and trees bear fruit in spring," 11-year-old Jeong Ho-seok said with a wide grin.

More than 60 primary, middle and high schools are now using digital textbooks as part of their curriculum, according to the state-run Korea Education and Research Information Service, which provides technical support for the program. Seoul believes it can finish the \$2.1 billion program to build a single computer network packed with high-quality digital

content by 2015. Replacing textbooks with tablet PCs will account for a quarter of that budget.

According to South Korean officials, France is handing out tablets in the Corrèze region and is pushing to expand digital material, while Japan began distributing tablet PCs in a primary school last year under a pilot program. Info-communications Development Authority of Singapore said on its website that Singapore began adopting tablet PCs in 2004.

But Kim Doo-yeon, a South Korean official leading the project, said his country will have no trouble competing. South Korea is one of the most wired places on earth. More than 80 percent of South Korean households have broadband access to the Internet, according to the statistical office here. U.S. Web hosting company Akamai said earlier this year that South Korea enjoys the fastest Internet connection in the world. □

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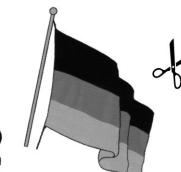
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Intel, Qualcomm show changing face of computing

JORDAN ROBERTSON

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

The changing face of the computer industry was on display Wednesday as two companies representing the old guard and the new issued strong results for the latest quarter.

Intel, a bedrock of the PC business, and Qualcomm, a vanguard in mobile computing, showed how companies at opposite ends of the computing spectrum are adapting to a market that's in intense upheaval.

Intel's net income rose 2 percent to \$2.95 billion as revenue jumped 21 percent to \$13 billion. The world's No. 1 maker of PC processors benefited from healthy demand from corporations and in emerging markets. It also rode the popularity of smartphones and tablet computers in selling the chips powering servers that handle the increased mobile traffic.

CEO Paul Otellini said the results left him with "increasing confidence" for the second half of the year. Meanwhile, Qualcomm's net income rose 35 percent to \$1.04 billion, and revenue rose 34 percent to \$3.62 billion. The maker of wireless chips credited robust smartphone adoption. The company raised its guidance.

Taken together, Intel's and Qualcomm's numbers demonstrate two things: — The rise of mobile gadgets and weakness in the consumer PC market in U.S. and Europe have profoundly transformed Intel's business.

— Those changes are benefiting companies such as Qualcomm as they assume a more prominent role in the semiconductor world. But investors' dismissive reaction to the reports underlined that the companies are still subject to different sets of expectations, even as their businesses overlap more.

After the results came out late Wednesday, Intel Corp.'s stock fell 34 cents, or 1.5 percent, to \$22.62, apparently because of fears that the PC market is so wobbly that Intel's forecasts might be too high. Qualcomm Inc.'s stock declined \$1.50, or 2.6 percent, to \$55.77 as some investors expected even stronger results.

Left unspoken in both company's reports was Apple Inc., whose introduction of the iPhone in 2007 and the



In this May 17, 2011 file photo, Intel CEO Paul Otellini gestures about Intel's growth during Intel's Investor Meeting at Intel headquarters in Santa Clara, Calif. To kick off the conference, Otellini began with a map of the world showing where PC growth will be strongest in coming years.

Associated Press



In this April 18, 2011 file photo, In this April 18, 2011, the exterior of Qualcomm offices are shown in Santa Clara, Calif. Qualcomm Inc., reports quarterly financial earnings Wednesday, July 20, 2011, after the market close.

Associated Press

iPad last year have single-handedly launched the computer industry in two

new directions, leading to a reshuffling of the established order. □

Oil settles higher; debt talks continue

NEW YORK (AP) — Crude oil futures zig-zagged to settle moderately higher Wednesday as talks continued over debt issues in Europe and the U.S. that could affect future demand.

Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for September delivery rose 54 cents to settle at \$98.40 a barrel Wednesday on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The August contract, which expired Wednesday, rose 64 cents to settle at \$98.14 a barrel.

In London, Brent crude gained \$1.09 to settle at \$118.15 per barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Crude prices have been mired in a narrow range between about \$95 a barrel and \$99 a barrel this month as investors worry that the global economy will suffer if U.S. and European leaders fail to solve their debt problems. That, in turn, could weaken demand for oil.

In the U.S. there appeared to be growing support for a bipartisan plan to reduce the deficit ahead of an Aug. 2 deadline to raise the nation's debt ceiling. Although it's seen as unlikely, failure to raise the debt ceiling would mean the U.S. would default on its massive debt obligations. □

Stocks dip after biggest day in a year

MATTHEW CRAFT

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A rally over hopes for a debt-limit deal turned into a waiting game for investors.

One day after the Dow Jones industrial average had its best day this year, the stock market edged lower on Wednesday. Analysts say concerns about lifting the U.S. debt limit outweighed strong earnings from Apple and a slew of new corporate deals.

"In this environment, stringing together a few days like yesterday is going to be tough," said Brad Sorenson, director of market analysis at Charles Schwab.

Apparent progress on raising the U.S. debt limit launched a stock market rally Tuesday. The Dow jumped 202 points, its best day this year. But investors woke up Wednesday to find Washington still at a stalemate. And with less than two weeks before the government risks defaulting on its debt, they are finding it hard to continue the celebration.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 15.51 points, or 0.1 percent, to close at 12,571.91.

The S&P 500 index dropped 0.89 point to 1,325.84. The Nasdaq fell 12.29 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,814.23. Apple Inc. rose 2.7 percent after the company's income doubled last quarter. Sales of Apple's iPhones quadrupled in Asia.

The stock of Zillow, a real estate website, jumped 79 percent in its first day of trading to \$35.77. Zillow's initial public offering of stock priced at \$20 late Tuesday. Clorox rose 2.4 percent after billionaire investor Carl Icahn raised his bid for the company to \$80 a share. The consumer products company rejected his previous offer. News of record earnings and new deals would usually brighten investors' mood, Sorenson said. In the current earnings season, for instance, some 75 percent of companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 index have beaten analysts' estimates. But larger worries about debt troubles in the U.S. and Europe are holding the market back. "It's causing investors and businesses and consumers to be concerned about the future," he said.

European Union officials plan to meet at an emergency summit Thursday in Brussels. Many expect EU members to drum up a new aid package for Greece. Worries about Europe's debt crisis have plagued markets for months. The results of stress tests on European banks released last week failed to calm fears that the crisis could soon turn worse. The tests didn't take into account the possibility that most analysts are worried about: a default by Greece or Portugal, two of the countries most at risk.

E-Trade Financial Corp. gained 13.7 percent, more than any other stock in the S&P 500 index. E-Trade's largest shareholder urged the online discount brokerage to consider putting itself up for sale. In a letter to E-Trade disclosed in a regulatory filing, the money manager Citadel LLC called for changes to the company's board, saying E-Trade's "phenomenal franchise" had been "squandered."

Cleaning and pest-control services company Ecolab Inc. said it would buy the water treatment company Nalco Holding Co. for \$5.4 billion. Nalco soared 24 percent while Ecolab dropped 7.3 percent.

Tuesday's rally turned the three major indexes positive for the month. The Dow and Nasdaq are now up more than 1 percent in July. The S&P 500 is up 0.4 percent. Rising stocks outpaced falling ones by a small margin on the New York Stock Exchange. Trading volume was below average at 3.5 billion shares. □

American orders 460 new planes from Boeing, Airbus

DAVID KOENIG

AP Airlines Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)

— American Airlines is revamping its fleet with a record order for at least 460 new jets, a move it says will save fuel and give passengers a quieter, more comfortable ride.

The airline pulled off the deal by convincing rival aircraft makers Airbus and Boeing to provide generous financing.

American said the new planes will make its fleet the youngest among major U.S. airlines within five years.

"This is almost American rebranding itself," said aviation consultant Darryl Jenkins. "Before, they were old and tired, and now they're going to be young and energetic."

The deal was a bold stroke from a management team

that has been roundly criticized on Wall Street for lacking new ideas as it lost \$4.8 billion and slid from world's biggest airline to No. 3 in the U.S. in just over three years.

Now the question for American is whether new planes that start showing up in two years will turn the tide — not only by cutting fuel use, but by attracting passengers who have become familiar with its older, noisier planes. American announced Wednesday that it will order 260 planes from Airbus and 200 from rival Boeing Co., and take options to buy 465 more.

The twin deal is a major coup for Europe's Airbus, which will break Boeing's exclusive grip on American's fleet. Airbus hadn't won an order from American since the 1980s.



An American Airlines jet taxis to take off at Logan International Airport in Boston Tuesday, July 19, 2011. American Airlines parent AMR Corp. on Wednesday, July 20, said it lost \$286 million in the second quarter despite higher revenue from ticket prices and fees.

Associated Press

Boeing salvaged one of its biggest sales ever — a huge consolation considering that the Chicago-based company was in danger of losing the whole order to Airbus.

The jets carry a sticker price of more than \$38 billion. Big airlines regularly get discounts, and analysts assumed that American pitted Airbus and Boeing against each other to drive down prices.

The buzz around the order was so strong on Wednesday that it nearly drowned out word that American's parent, AMR Corp., decided to spin off its American Eagle regional airline in a cost-cutting move.

And the hoopla obscured more bad news on the financial front for AMR and American. AMR reported that it lost \$286 million in the second quarter, as rising fuel prices wiped out an increase in revenue. The loss was wider than analysts expected.

In the end, investors seemed dazed by all the big news. They pushed AMR shares higher early in the day, only to see the stock slip later and close down a penny at \$4.92.

In recent weeks, the airline industry was riveted by the drama of Airbus and Boeing dueling for American's interest. In discussions that lasted long into Tuesday night at an airport hotel near Dallas, AMR's board

approved the odd split order.

American considered buying fewer planes but was swayed by generous financing offers from Airbus and Boeing. The two aircraft makers provided \$13 billion in financing through lease transactions that will greatly reduce American's need to spend cash up front on the planes.

The jets will replace about 200 McDonnell Douglas MD-80 aircraft that burn about 35 percent more fuel than Airbus' upcoming A320neo, which is expected to carry passengers by late 2015.

The new planes will have better lighting, more overhead space and better seats in both coach and first-class than the MD-80s, according to American.

AMR Chairman and CEO Gerard Arpey said all those amenities will help American attract important business travelers. With the financing help and fuel savings, "This is just a no-brainer, economic home run from day one when the airplanes show up," Arpey said.

American will start getting 100 of the new Boeing 737 aircraft in 2013 and later will get another 100 equipped with updated, more fuel-efficient engines — if Boeing's board approves production of that plane. American will take options for 100 more.

Airbus will deliver planes from its A320 series, also starting in 2013. Beginning in 2017, American will get the first of 130 of a new Airbus jet called the A320neo — for new engine option. Both planes are twin-engine models with a single aisle in the cabin, and are used heavily on routes within the U.S. American's current 737s have 148 or 160 seats, while models in the Airbus A320 family seat between 100 and 185 or more passengers.

American expects to have the youngest fleet among similar U.S. airlines within five years, although Delta Air Lines Inc. is also considering a large order to update its domestic fleet.

American has one of the oldest fleets in the U.S. airline industry — its more than 600 planes average about 15 years in age. At a time when the airline is paying more than \$3 for a gallon (80 cents per liter) of jet fuel, one-third of the fleet consists of fuel-guzzling MD-80s.

Even with more efficient planes, American still faces the challenge of stemming the loss of customers to low-cost carriers such as Southwest and JetBlue.

"You're getting new planes, now start making money, guys," said aviation consultant Adam Pilarski.

"Having shiny new planes doesn't guarantee your success." □



In this April 21, 2011 file photo, the Nissan Leaf is presented as the 2011 World Car of the Year at the New York International Auto Show.

Associated Press

Nissan to build electric car motors at U.S. plant

BILL POOVEY

Associated Press

CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee (AP) — Nissan will build motors for the electric Leaf at its engine plant in Decherd, Tennessee, starting in early 2013 as the automaker expands production.

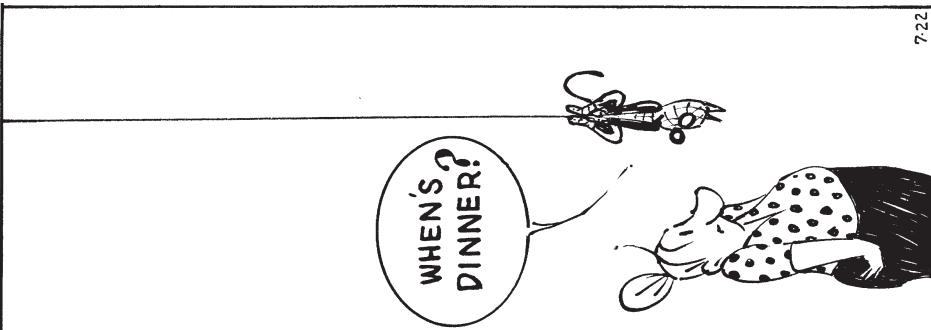
The plant will be able to make up to 150,000 electric motors a year. It currently makes engines and components for Nissan vehicles built in North America, and also houses engine casting and forging operations.

New production at the site will be added to current production in Japan, said company spokesman Steve Parratt. He said locating the work at Decherd is not related to the March disaster in Japan.

More than 4,000 Leafs have been delivered to customers in the United States. The price of the 2012 Leaf that goes on sale this fall is about \$2,500 higher than this year at \$35,200 for the SV trim level, Nissan has said.

A \$7,500 tax credit could reduce the starting price to \$27,700. □

Mutts



6 Chix



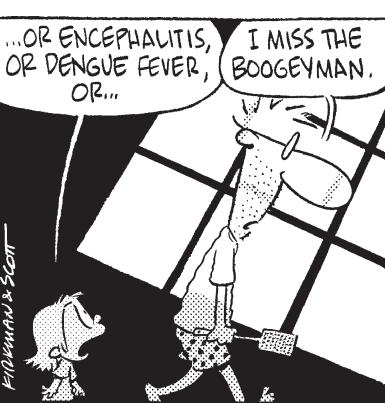
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

6			9		2			4
			7	3	6			
9	5			3		7		
	1		5		6			
8	7			4		2		
			3	1	8			
7			4	9		6		

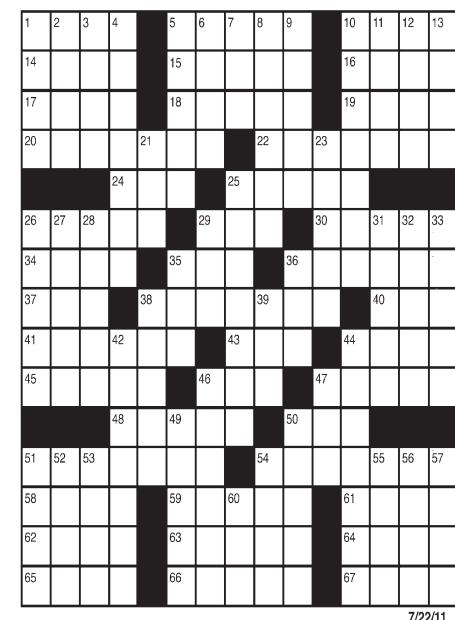
Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

7	8	1	4	5	9	3	6	2
6	3	4	1	2	7	5	9	8
5	2	9	6	3	8	4	7	1
9	1	2	5	7	6	8	3	4
8	4	6	2	9	3	1	5	7
3	5	7	8	4	1	9	2	6
4	6	3	9	8	2	7	1	5
1	9	5	7	6	4	2	8	3
2	7	8	3	1	5	6	4	9

Yesterday's puzzle answer

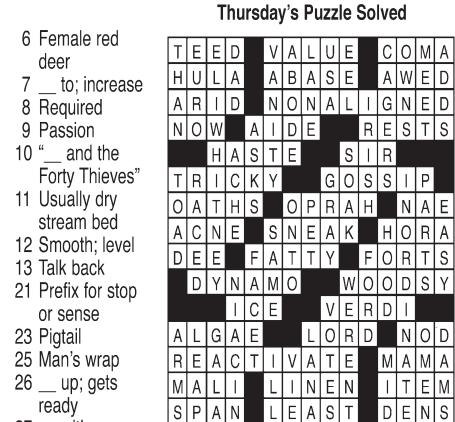


ACROSS

- 1 Qualified
5 African nation
10 Fills with holy wonderment
14 Legal paper
15 Equestrian
16 Molten rock
17 Get up
18 Finished
19 "Beware the ___ of March"
20 Longed
22 Farm horses
24 Silent assent
25 ___ firma; solid ground
26 Gather grain left by reapers
29 Pea casing
30 Dwelling
34 British peer
35 Printing store chain
36 Prejudiced
37 Flurry; turmoil
38 ___ together; made a cluster
40 Scoundrel
41 Baggage porter
43 Umpire's call
44 Painter
Salvador ___
45 Weasel; sly guy
46 Water barrier
47 Rudely brief
48 Religious belief
50 Reno's state: abbr.
51 Incited; urged
54 Be an arbiter
58 Impolite person
59 Jeweled crown
61 As neat as ___
62 Baseball's Ruth
63 Enthusiastic
64 Take care of
65 Glided
66 Luge racers
67 Alimony recipients
68 ___ with; burdened by
69 Wear away
70 Piece of jewelry
71 Acting award
72 Good buys
73 Actor Cibrian
74 Young dog
75 Wager
76 Boston ___ beans

- 6 Female red deer
7 ___ to; increase
8 Required
9 Passion
10 ___ and the Forty Thieves"
11 Usually dry stream bed
12 Smooth; level
13 Talk back
21 Prefix for stop or sense
23 Pigtail
25 Man's wrap
26 ___ up; gets ready
27 ___ with; burdened by
28 Wear away
29 Piece of jewelry
31 Acting award
32 Good buys
33 Actor Cibrian
35 Young dog
36 Wager
38 Boston ___ beans

- 39 Droning sound
42 Supplied food, as at a banquet
44 Stray from the normal path
46 In ___; refusing to accept facts
47 Mr. Koppel
49 Memos



Thursday's Puzzle Solved

T	E	E	V	A	L	U	V	C	O	M	A
H	U	L	A	B	A	S	A	W	E	D	
A	R	I	D	N	N	O	N	A	L	I	G
N	O	W	A	I	D	E	R	E	S	T	S
7/21/11	7/21/11	7/21/11	7/21/11	7/21/11	7/21/11	7/21/11	7/21/11	7/21/11	7/21/11	7/21/11	7/21/11

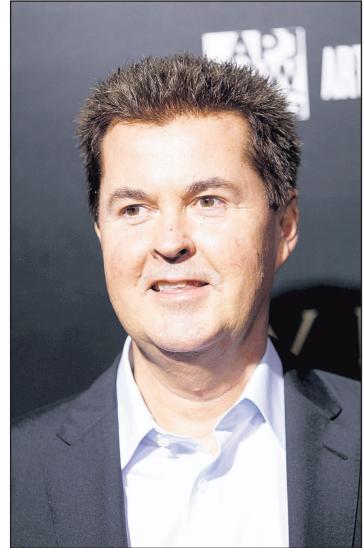
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- 50 Approaches
51 Recedes
52 Hockey score
53 Asian desert
54 Talking horse
55 Pinnacle
56 Prong
57 Conclusions
60 Grow old

'Idol' creator sues for stake in rival 'X-Factor'

ANTHONY McCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The creator of "American Idol" sued the show's broadcaster and producer claim-



Entertainment mogul Simon Fuller arrives at the BVLGARI Fundraiser benefitting Save The Children and Artists For Peace and Justice in Los Angeles. Fuller sued the producers and network that airs "American Idol" claiming they had reneged on a deal to give him a share of rival Simon Cowell's show "The X-Factor" in accordance with a settlement they had reached years ago.

(AP Photo/Matt Sayles, file)

ing they have reneged on a deal to give him a stake in a rival competition show that is about to premiere in the United States.

Producer Simon Fuller is seeking an executive producer credit and the appropriate fees once "The X-Factor" — which was created by former "Idol" judge Simon Cowell — begins airing its U.S.-debut in September. His lawsuit is against Fox Broadcasting Co. and the show's production company, FremantleMedia North America. Fox will air both "Idol" and "X-Factor," and FremantleMedia is producing both shows.

The lawsuit reignites long-standing tension between the forces that made "American Idol" one of the past decade's most popular shows in the United States.

Fuller imported the format from Britain, where he launched "Pop Idol." The U.S. version debuted in 2001 and featured Cowell as a judge whose biting remarks to contestants became a fixture and a ratings magnet.

Cowell created "X-Factor" three years later; it also premiered in England.

That prompted Fuller to sue Cowell for copyright infringement, and according to his lawsuit, Fox and Fremantle stepped in to preserve "American Idol." □

Lawyer:

'Happy Days'suit prompts checks

ANTHONY McCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Happy Days" cast members who filed a multimillion dollar lawsuit against CBS over merchandise profits have received checks for a small fraction of the amount they say they are owed, their lawyer said Wednesday.

Attorney Jon Pfeiffer said the checks received after the case started were between \$6,000 and \$6,500 for each of the cast members and the wife of the late actor Tom Bosley.

The actors, who include Bosley's on-screen wife Marion Ross, Anson Williams, Don Most, and Erin Moran, sued CBS Studios in April seeking more than \$10 million in profits for "Happy Days"-themed merchandise. The items marketed with the actors' likenesses include T-shirts, board games and even gambling machines.

CBS declined to comment Wednesday, but the network said in an earlier statement that it was aware of the issue and was seeking a resolution. □

A diva chooses the unfamiliar

JESSICA MICHAULT
© 2011 New York Times

PARIS — Beyoncé's latest chart-topping album hit stores less than a month ago. But it is not the singer's music that has the fashion world buzzing.

The artist's fourth album, titled "4," features a fold-out cover that looks more like a glossy fashion magazine spread than a record sleeve.

As with other leading pop divas like Lady Gaga, Rihanna and Katy Perry, fashion has always played a big role in Beyoncé's artistic persona. In her music videos, she uses outfits to

yonce likes," Tally said in a phone interview.

"Each song really has a different personality, so we decided to do the cover like an editorial for a magazine, with each song having its own style."

The album's cover image illustrates the singer's embrace of under-the-radar creators and features Beyoncé wearing a fox-fur stole by the cult French designer Alexandre Vauthier embellished with Swarovski crystals by the Lesage embroidery house.

Vauthier's work also shows up inside the fold-out cover, as does a pair of Daisy

photograph of Beyoncé in a purple-and-black beaded dress by the 27-year-old French designer Maxime Simoens replaced the fur stole as the cover image. On the back of both versions of the album, the singer is photographed in a vintage Azzedine Alaïa jacket and some gravity-defying high heels by the 36-year-old Dutch designer Jan Taminiau.

Having Beyoncé wear their creations has already helped these niche designers garner a higher visibility on the global fashion stage.

Vauthier, for example,



An undated handout image of Beyoncé in a red stole from the designer Alexandre Vauthier. Instead of sticking to major fashion houses like Versace, Gucci, Prada or Chanel, the singer has thrown the spotlight on a number of up-and-coming designers by wearing their designs for her new album.

(Greg Gex via The New York Times)

take on different roles, while onstage, revealing ensembles spice up her live performances. The difference this time is in her choice of designers.

Instead of sticking to major fashion houses like Versace, Gucci, Prada or Chanel, the singer has thrown the spotlight on a number of up-and-coming designers whose names are likely to be unfamiliar to all but the most die-hard fashion followers.

Beyoncé's creative director, Jenke-Ahmed Tally, along with the singer's stylist, Ty Hunter, pointed her in the direction of these designers.

"The album is a musical gumbo of everything Be-

Duke shorts by the young French designer Julien Fournie, who founded his brand only three years ago.

Even student designers got a look-in: Leah Rea, who just received her BFA in fashion design this spring from Parsons the New School for Design, created a form-fitting bodysuit for the album spread.

"It was important to Beyoncé that the choice of clothing not be about the brand but about the quality of the work," said Tally, who, with the creative consultant Melina Matsoukas, brought Rea's designs to the singer's attention.

For the "deluxe" version of the album, which features extra songs and remixes, a

has seen his collaboration with the singer evolve. For her appearance at the Glastonbury Festival in Britain last month, Beyoncé wore a gold minidress by Vauthier, chosen at the last minute over a planned ensemble at the suggestion of Beyoncé's husband, Jay-Z, the designer said. Worn with a wide belt and a pair of black hot pants, that outfit helped generate a lot of interest in Vauthier. "I dress women who have something to say," said Vauthier, who clothed Rihanna for the cover of her single "Hard," and whose designs have been worn by the pop singer Roisin Murphy and by Sophia Loren and Isabelle Huppert. □

Bold designers close out Mercedes-Benz Fashion Swim 2012

SUZETTE LABOY
Associated Press

MIAMI BEACH, Florida (AP)

In next year's beach season, women can be comfortable, feel glamorous and look trend-right in pants on the beach.

Bold-colored and printed suits were among the popular styles on the runway during the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Swim

er Red Carter said.

Featured designers: **DOLORES CORTES**

Spanish designer Dolores Font Cortes' collection was inspired by dreams of a remote, idyllic island.

"You are on a deserted island, because you want to, and you want to be beautiful and glamorous with what you have around

The designer also paired a hot-pink pant paired with a multicolored bikini top, followed by a pantsuit in the same vibrant color pattern. Some models carried small coconut purses down the runway.

CIA.MARITIMA

Fringe and gold embellished swimsuits with a butterfly print were seen at Cia. Maritima.

"The butterfly print is going to be one of the main prints in the collection," designer Patrizia Simonelli said in Portuguese through an interpreter.

The collection represents an effortless, boho-chic look reminiscent of the '60s and the French Riviera. Animal print continued as a staple of the label: A blue leopard string bikini with pink trim was paired with a cropped T-shirt. A one-shoulder monokini was in a snake print, while a bandeau was worn with a pinup ruched animal print bottom.

The animal print also was seen mixed with floral in a long-sleeve chiffon tunic over a blue string bottom and pink triangle top.

"Animal print is the DNA of our brand. We always have it. We always use it as a mix and match print," Simonelli said.

The show opened with a triangle beaded top and tie-side bottom. Several pieces had those gold fringe details, including a snake one-piece in blue and yellow. The butterfly print was seen in a bandeau top with center gold hardware, as a vest over a triangle top and in a green and pink colored tunic.

Meanwhile, a studded triangle top in bright orange was paired with a denim string bottom, memorable because denim is a rare sight at the swimwear shows.

NORMA KAMALI

A special presentation of Norma Kamali's swimwear collection included a lace mesh combo on dresses and pants that are washable and wearable. A gown (originally designed for singer and actress Jennifer Lopez) had sparkling rhinestones. A nude fishtail pant creates a slimming effect. □



The Cia.Maritima swimwear collection is modeled during Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Swim 2012 in Miami Beach, Fla.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

2012, which ended this week. Playful prints and vibrant hues — hot pink, acid green, cobalt blue — had their places on the catwalks in Miami Beach, as well as geometric shapes and animal-inspired prints, colors and stripes.

Some designers showed high-waisted bikini bottoms, while others included multi side-string swimwear, allowing for some skin to peek through.

Close to two dozen designers previewed looks for stylists, editors and retailers who used The Raleigh Hotel as their home base over five days. They saw collections inspired by the Amazon, Egypt and Pop Art, among other themes.

"It was important for me to address elegance," design-

you," the designer told the AP in Spanish.

Colors ranged from strawberry pink to the green tint from the bottom of the sea, and orange shades with tones mixed with black. Animal prints were reinvented in fluorescent shades and geometric shapes. Metal hardware was included in some swimsuits, including an orange monokini, essentially a one-piece with exaggerated cutouts in the middle. A blue bikini top dazzled with jewels.

"A part of the collection reminds you of what you could do by hand," Cortes said, referring to some of the crochet pieces as well as bikini bottoms and one-pieces with multiple strings along the sides to show a sliver of skin. □



Above and below: The Dolores Cortes swimwear collection is modeled during Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Swim 2012 in Miami Beach, Fla.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)



From Gallipoli to Singapore



MAUREEN DOWD

© 2011 New York Times

Right before a clown threw blue shaving cream on Rupert Murdoch and Murdoch's pink-clad wife threw a roundhouse at the clown, the most powerful media mogul in history was reminiscing about his father.

In a meeting last week in London with the parents of the murdered 13-year-old Milly Dowler, whose cellphone was hacked by his hacks – digital activity that left her family with a hope that she might still be alive – Murdoch said News of the World had not lived up to the standards of his father and mother. Now he was talking sentimentally to British members of Parliament investigating the hacking and Scotland Yard bribery scandal about how his father had seen newspapers as a force for good.

"I just wanted to say that I was brought up by a father who was not rich but was a great journalist," the 80-year-old Murdoch said. "And he, just before he died, bought a small paper specifically saying in his will it had given him the chance to do good. And I remember what he did and what he was most proud of and for which he was hated by many people in this country for many, many years, which was expose the scandal in Gallipoli, which I remain very, very proud of."

The late Keith Murdoch, the grandson of two Scottish ministers, was a media baron in Australia who wielded the power to make and break prime ministers, just as his son later would. And like Rupert, Keith's heart, or as one Australian writer put it, "what he would have called his heart," was drawn to brash tabloids. As a young journalist during World War I, Keith Murdoch became famous when he visited the Gallipoli campaign and broke censorship rules barring any criticism of the conduct of war or tally of casualty figures. He wrote home to the Australian prime minister, a family friend, and he sneaked off to London to blow the whistle there – in a jingoistic, exaggerated way his son would appreciate – about the incompetence of the British command in charge of the decimation in Turkey, where 120,000 soldiers died, including 8,500 Australian infantry and light horsemen.

Old posters for the brilliant 1981 movie "Gallipoli" give Rupert Murdoch a producing credit. He financed half the movie to

show the world why his father had been right.

Rupert wanted to avenge his father with the British establishment, and what sweeter way to do it than to take over the British press, including its most prestigious broadsheet, The Times of London, and help decide who runs Britain.

At Tuesday's hearing before a parliamentary committee, Murdoch smiled as he admitted that he sometimes had to go in the back door of 10 Downing Street to have tea with a grateful prime minister. But even the back door may be barred to him now. And, as the scandal creeps up the trellis of British power, who knows now how long it will be David Cameron's home?

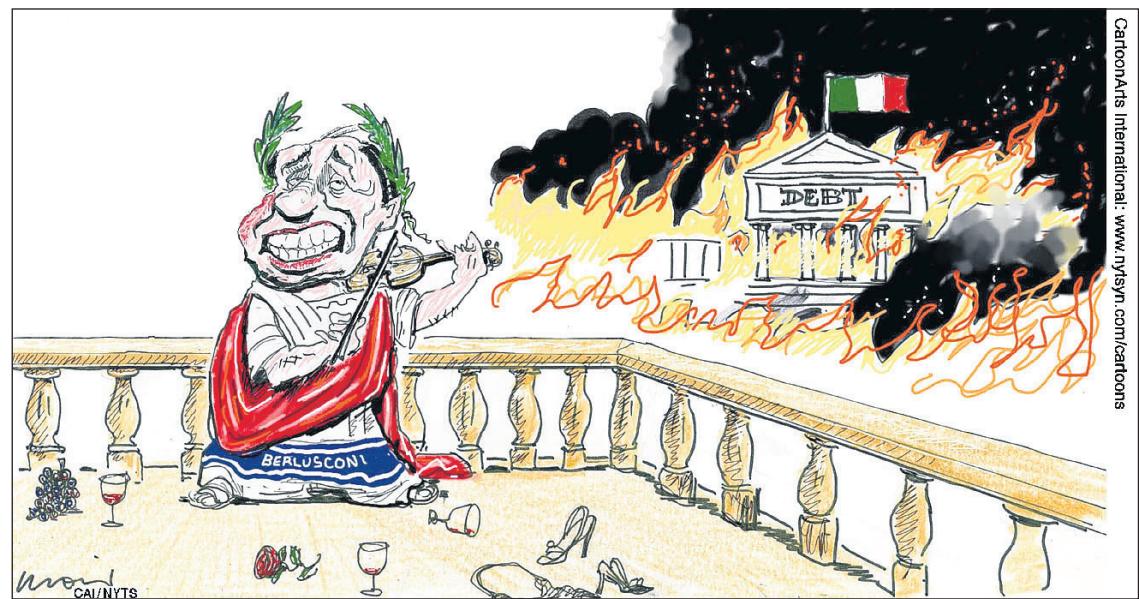
The hunters became the hunted during three hours of riveting testimony in the House of Commons. The News Corp. trio, baked in the bottom-feeding and whatever-it-takes business, seemed coached. They would say whatever it took. They stuck to a hoary formula for scandals, claiming the cognitive advantage that being on top of the world left them out of touch. Mistakes were made, but not by the captains of the ship. We deeply regret these things we were in no way involved in. We're transparent, even though we're still paying off former employees to keep their mouths shut. Playing the ruthless mogul reduced to helpless victim, Rupert came across better than his 38-year-old son James, with the Haldeman buzz cut, the American Harvard dropout accent, the "Mad Men" skinny blue tie, and the ingratiating over-articulateness hiding the arrogant entitlement.

Rebekah Brooks, the 43-year-old former editor of News of the World and daughter-figure to Rupert, was a prideful pre-Raphaelite Medusa, with a sweet face and soft voice spinning tales of innocence that didn't quite gel.

At hearings revealing their corruption, the police revealed their incompetence, unable to stop a lame comedian from further victimizing their self-proclaimed victim.

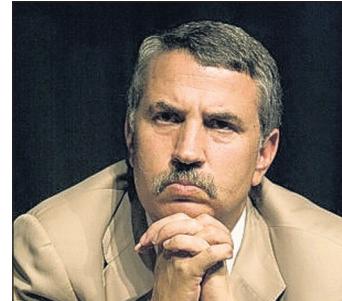
Rupert Murdoch's tabloids pandered to the lowest common denominator, but, in the end, his sleazy henchmen were lower than the people they pandered to. People had a limit, as it turned out. Citizen Murdoch was brought low, his grip loosened and his myth deflated, by the power of social opprobrium. His most revealing moment was when he volunteered his admiration of Singapore, calling it the most "open and clear society in the world." Its leaders are so lavishly paid, he said, that "there's no temptation, and it is the cleanest society you'd find anywhere."

It was instructive that Murdoch chose to praise a polished, deeply authoritarian police state. Maybe that's how corporations would live if they didn't have to believe in people. □



CartoonArt International: www.nyts.com/cartoons

Can Greeks become Germans?



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

© 2011 New York Times

ATHENS, Greece — Katerina Sokou, 37, a Greek financial journalist at Kathimerini, a daily newspaper, told me this story: A group of German members of the Bavarian Parliament came to Athens shortly after the economic crisis erupted here and met with some Greek politicians, academics, journalists and lawyers at a taverna to evaluate the Greek economy. Sokou said her impression was that the Germans were trying to figure out whether they should be lending money to Greece for a bailout. It was like one nation interviewing another for a loan.

"They were not here as tourists; we were giving data on how many hours we work," recalled Sokou. "It really felt like we had to persuade them about our values."

Sokou's observation reminded me of a point made to me by Dov Seidman, the author of the book "How" and the chief executive officer of LRN, which helps companies build ethical business cultures.

The globalization of markets and people has intensified to a new degree in the past five years, with the emergence of social networking, Skype, derivatives, fast wireless connectivity, cheap smartphones and cloud computing.

"When the world is bound together this tightly," argued Seidman, "everyone's values and behavior matter more than ever, because they impact so many more people than ever. ... We've gone from connected to interconnected to ethically interdependent."

As it becomes harder to shield yourself from the other guy's irresponsible behavior, added Seidman, both he and you had better behave more responsibly – or you both will suffer the

consequences, whether you did anything wrong or not. This is doubly true when two different countries share the same currency but not the same government.

That's why this story is not just about interest rates. It's about values. Germans are now telling Greeks: "We'll loan you more money, provided that you behave like Germans in how you save, how many hours a week you work, how long a vacation you take, and how consistently you pay your taxes."

Alas, though, these two countries are so culturally different. They remind you of a couple about whom you ask after their divorce: "How did the two of them ever think they could be married?"

Germany is the epitome of a country that made itself rich by making stuff. Greece, alas, after it joined the European Union in 1981, actually became just another Middle East petro-state – only instead of an oil well, it had Brussels, which steadily pumped out subsidies, aid and euros with low-interest rates to Athens. Natural resources create corruption, as groups compete for who controls the tap.

That is exactly what happened in Greece when it got access to huge Euro-loans and subsidies. The natural entrepreneurship of Greeks was channeled in the wrong direction – in a competition for government funds and contracts.

To be sure, it wasn't all squandered. Greece had a real modernization spurt in the 1990s. But after 2002, it put its feet up, thinking it had arrived, and too much "Euro-oil" from the European Union went back to financing a corrupt, patrimonial system whereby politicians dispensed government jobs and projects to localities in return for votes. This reinforced a huge welfare state, where young people dreamed of a cushy government job and everyone from cabdrivers to truckers to pharmacists to lawyers was allowed to erect barriers to entry that artificially inflated

prices. European Union membership "was a big opportunity for development, and we wasted it," explained Dimitris Bourantas, a professor of management at Athens University. "We also did not take advantage of the markets of the (formerly) socialist countries around Greece. And we also did not take advantage of the growth of the global economy."

We lost them all because the political system was focused on growing public administration – not on (fostering) entrepreneurship, competition or industrial strategy or competitive advantages. We created a state with big inefficiencies, corruption and a very large bureaucracy. We were the last Soviet country in Europe."

That is why, he added, that Greeks, when they move to the U.S., "unleash their skills and entrepreneurship" in ways that enable them to thrive in commerce. But here in Greece, the system encourages just the opposite. Investors here tell you that the red tape involved in starting a new business is overwhelming. It's crazy; Greece is the only country in the world where Greeks don't behave like Greeks. Their welfare state, financed by Euro-oil, has bred it out of them.

With the decline of Beirut and Dubai, Athens should have become the service center of the Eastern Mediterranean. Instead, Cyprus and Istanbul seized that role. Greece must not waste this crisis. While it has instituted some reforms in the last year, Prime Minister George Papandreou said to me, "What is most frustrating is the resistance in the system. How do you produce a change in culture?"

It will take a cultural revolution. And that can happen only if Greece's two major parties come together, hold hands and collectively force through a radical change in the governing culture from the top down. Without that, Greece will never be able to pay back its loans. □

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Or

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Or

BARBECUE LOIN RIBS

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•

FLAN CARAMEL

Or

ICE CREAM

(STRAWBERRY, VANILLA OR CHOCOLATE)

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